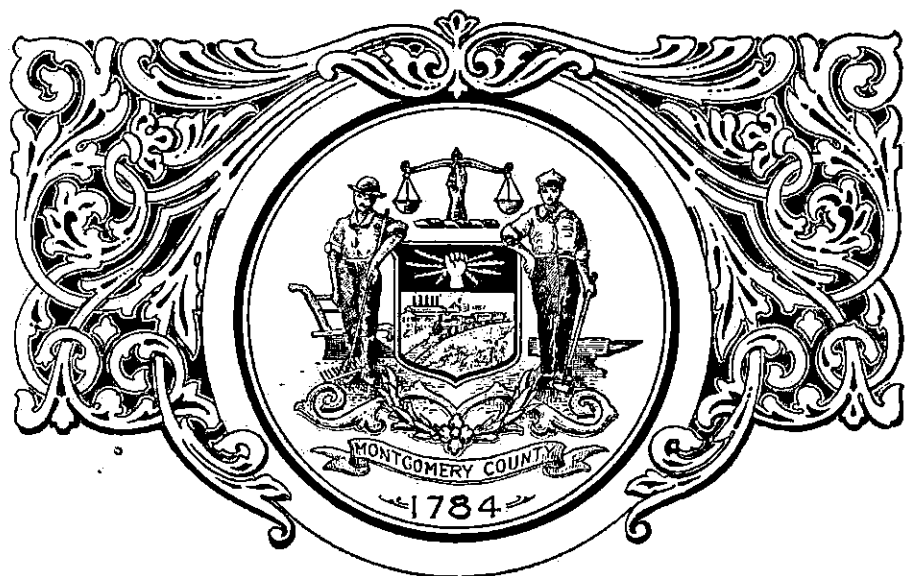


BULLETIN  
*of the*  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
*of*  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  

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*NORRISTOWN*



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# Historical Society of Montgomery County

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1841 - 1915

# THE BULLETIN

of the

## Historical Society of Montgomery County

*Published Semi-Annually—October and April*

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## Emily Krause Preston

1875 - 1942

The members and friends of the Historical Society of Montgomery County sustained a great loss by the sudden passing to her eternal reward of Emily Krause Preston, for the past ten years the highly honored and efficient Librarian and Curator of the Society, on November 26, 1942.

Emily Krause Preston was born on March 18, 1875, in the family homestead, a large residence on Penn street, Norristown, Pa., almost directly across the street from the present building of our Society. This was her home for nearly half a century until the property was acquired by the County in order that the site might be used in the construction of the recently built annex to the court house.

She was a descendant of a distinguished Montgomery County family. Her father, Doctor Mahlon Preston, a pioneer homeopathic physician, was for many years a leader among the medical profession in and around Norristown.

Her mother, Mary Krause Preston, was the daughter of David Krause, the last appointed judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery and Bucks Counties, holding that office from 1845 to 1851. Mary Krause Preston was among the pioneer members of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, also other early community organizations. It was largely through her mother's interest and influence that Emily Krause Preston and her sister, Katharine Preston, one of our Trustees, became interested in the rich historical background of her home town, county and state.

Miss Preston received her education at Miss Hayman's School, Norristown, the Friends Select School, Philadelphia, and the secretarial course at Drexel Institute, graduating with high honors from all institutions.

Emily Krause Preston's first connection with the work of the Historical Society dates from 1912, when she assisted Miss Frances M. Fox, the first curator, in typing the first 1,275 indexing cards for our library. We note the coincidence that our first and third curators were summoned to serve in the Great Beyond only two weeks apart.

For a number of years Miss Preston had assisted William M. Gearhart, our second curator and librarian, and at his death in 1933 she was appointed his successor. As the efficient custodian of our building and its valuable contents, she served our society continuously, faithfully and unselfishly for almost ten years during one of the most difficult periods in American history.

Her work as librarian and curator during these years, especially the outstanding achievements in indexing our books, and manuscripts in our library, and the arranging of the valuable exhibits in our museum, are a far better and lasting memorial to her than any words we might record in this tribute. They are a living testimonial of one of whom it can be said "Blessed are dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; *and their works do follow them.*"

NELSON P. FEGLEY, KIRKE BRYAN, FRANKLIN A. STICKLER, *Committee*

## Frances Macomb Fox

On November 12, 1942, Miss Frances Macomb Fox, for almost half a century a member of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, was called from our midst to her Heavenly Home, there to rest from her earthly labors, and hear the Master's "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

Length of years for much useful service had been granted her, she having reached the eighty-sixth milestone on the Road of Life.

Miss Fox was the daughter of Gilbert Rodman Fox, one of Montgomery County's most distinguished lawyers, and Catherine Rodman Fox, early residents of Norristown; and a grand-daughter of a noted Bucks County jurist, Judge John Fox of Doylestown, Pa.

Frances Macomb Fox was elected to membership in our Society on March 9, 1895, and soon became deeply interested in promoting a forward-looking program for gathering and properly preserving for future generations the abounding historic treasures that are the proud heritage of all citizens of Montgomery County.

When the expansion of the Society's interests made a division of secretarial duties advisable, separate officers for Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary were authorized at the annual meeting, February 22, 1898. Mrs. A. Conrad Jones, joint secretary since 1892, was continued as Corresponding Secretary, and Miss Frances Macomb Fox elected Recording Secretary, which office she held until February 22, 1914.

On July 1, 1912, Miss Fox voluntarily assumed the work of assistant Librarian and Curator, to sort, clean, label, index and catalogue the large mass of accumulated material on hand in the building, in order that it might become accessible to the members and public. In her report to the Society she notes that from August 1 to December 9, 1912, over 2500 books and pamphlets were handled, some as often as ten times. Of peculiarly special interest at this time, she notes that in November, 1912, she secured the assistance of Miss Emily Preston to prepare 1275 catalogue index cards.

At the annual meeting February 22, 1913, the office of Curator was created, and Miss Fox elected to fill the position. This office she held, with great honor and credit to herself and the Society, until 1922, when she resigned on account of her removing to Doylestown, Pa.

To Miss Fox's zealous and efficient activities, her faithful, unselfish, intelligent and untiring service throughout the years, our Society owes and expresses its debt of grateful and deep appreciation. Of her we can truly say:

"Life's race well run—Life's work well done,  
Now the hour of rest hath come to thee."

FRANKLIN A. STICKLER

KATHARINE PRESTON

MRS. A. CONRAD JONES, *Committee*

## Colonial Land Tenure in Hatboro and Vicinity\*

By CHARLES HARPER SMITH

"Hatboro and Vicinity" here refer to the Borough itself and adjacent portions of Upper Moreland township, bounded on the northeast by Bucks county, on the northwest by Horsham township, on the southwest by the line of Mill Road, and on the southeast by a broken line most readily followed by reference to the map accompanying this paper.

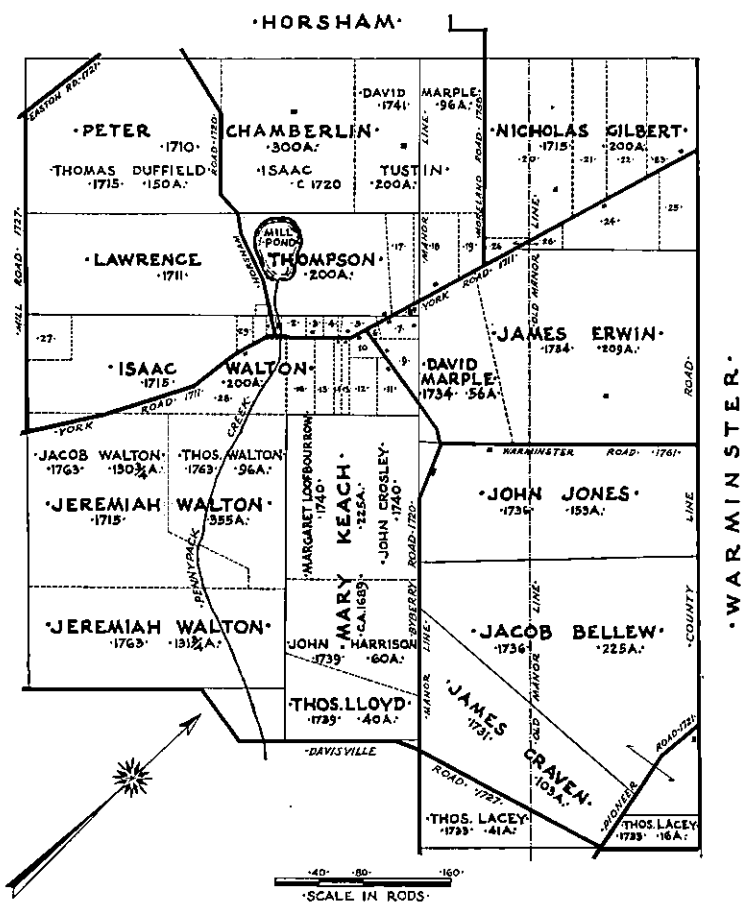
This block of land, containing about 2,500 acres, once formed the north corner of a vast tract of some 25 square miles, known during the XVIIIth Century as the Manor of Moreland, and named for its first private landowner, Dr. Nicholas More, who patented the greater part of it on August 7, 1684 (Per 2, 13-14).<sup>1</sup>

Nicholas More was a London physician of independent means, who brought his family to America in the fall of 1682. An ambitious and forceful man, he had a brief but meteoric career in the Provincial Assembly and Court, and took an active part in the development of vacant lands. As President of the Free Society of Traders, he obtained a grant of 20,000 acres from the Proprietor; his ambition to become a great landowner in his own right was satisfied by purchase of the

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\* Read in part before the Society February 23, 1942.

<sup>1</sup> It will be necessary to refer frequently to deeds, wills and other source materials in the course of this article. To save space, the following abbreviations have been adopted: "Per" for Philadelphia Exemplification Record; "Pd" for Philadelphia Deeds; "Pw" for Philadelphia Wills; "Md" for Montgomery Deeds; "Mw" for Montgomery Wills; "Bd" for Bucks Deeds. In each case the abbreviation is followed by book and page references. Thus, "Per 2, 13-14" cites the Philadelphia Exemplification Record, volume 2, pages 13 and 14.



• KEY MAP OF •  
• COLONIAL LAND TENURE IN HATBORO AND VICINITY •

• AUG. 1942 •



Manor of Moreland, which he hoped to develop after the British feudal pattern, where the Lord of the Manor owned all the land and improvements, and regulated the daily life of his tenants through a manorial court, over which he presided. Development began in the Somerton-Bustleton vicinity almost immediately, but was halted by his death two or three years later.<sup>2</sup>

But Nicholas More never held title to all the land later included in the Manor of Moreland, although it was intended that his grant should extend from Abington and Dublin townships to the Bucks county line. That line was originally believed to lie 150 rods southwest of its present location, and was so defined by act of the Provincial Council in 1635. It was permanently relocated a year or two later, however, and the narrow intervening strip was then allotted to other settlers.<sup>3</sup>

Then, while Dr. More's estate was being settled, a resurvey of the Manor was made and it was found to contain an "over-plus" of about 1,500 acres not covered by the deed of patent. Thereupon, a second strip, 100 rods wide inside the northeast line, was set apart and sold to that inveterate land speculator, Thomas Fairman.<sup>4</sup> The double strip thus formed was later included in the township known as the Manor of Moreland, and was occasionally referred to as "the Strip" in legal documents for almost a century.

The revised Manor line is now followed by Byberry Road from the outskirts of Hatboro to Somerton, but within the

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<sup>2</sup> Two plantations were laid out, a mile or two apart. Each had its appropriate farm buildings, and on the tract near Somerton, later owned by the Comly family, a "mannor house" was begun, but was apparently left unfinished. This was not Dr. More's "Green Spring Plantation," as is generally believed. "Green Spring" was an estate of 280 acres in the Northern Liberties (Pd E 7, vol. 8, 360), where Nicholas More lived and was buried.

<sup>3</sup> Col. Rec. of Penna., I, 126 & 130. Cf. also this area on Holme's Map; Pd G 11, 250; and Bd 2, 254.

<sup>4</sup> Per 1, 419; Penna. Arch., Second Ser., XIX, 34.

Borough it crosses York Road about 50 feet below the Moreland Avenue intersection and parallels West Moreland to the Horsham boundary.<sup>5</sup>

In the division of the Manor proper among the More heirs, a daughter Mary was allotted a strip of land 117½ rods wide inside the revised Manor line, beginning 75 rods southeast of York Road and extending along Byberry Road to the vicinity of Somerton.<sup>6</sup> Two other children, Nicholas More, Jr. and his sister Sarah, were given joint possession of all the remaining land in the upper end of the Manor, totaling about 5,000 acres. Nicholas then built a large manor house in the hills between Willow Grove and Bethayres, where he lived as a country squire for 25 years.

The upper end of the 150-rod strip inside the present Bucks county line, between the Davisville Road and the Horsham boundary, was first sold to one Joseph Jones of the city of Southampton, England (Per 5, 669; Bd 2, 254), who assigned his equity to Peter Chamberlin and his wife Lucy, residents of the neighboring village of Bustleton (Pd E 4, vol. 7, 290). The Chamberlins emigrated not later than the year 1693, at which time they had already established themselves near the present junction of Pioneer and County Line roads.<sup>7</sup>

In 1704, Chamberlin bought the adjoining 100-rod strip from Fairman (Pd I 8, 429), and six years later a 300-acre tract within the Manor proper (Pd H 2, 26), giving him an estate of some 1,500 acres, which he named "Penuel Plantation."

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<sup>5</sup> The rear line of the longer lots on the south side of East Moreland between York Road and Penn Street follows the old Manor line.

<sup>6</sup> The upper part is marked "Mary Keach" on the accompanying map.

<sup>7</sup> On Aug. 8, 1693, the Provincial Council ordered that the road from the city to Bethayres "extend up into the Countrey to peter Chamberlains" (Col. Rec. of Penna., I, 387). This was the Pioneer Road, known for a century as Chamberlin Road; it was rededicated and improved in 1722 (Road Rec. of Phila. Court of Qr. Sess., Packet 22, M 18).

A well-established local tradition, first publicized by the historian Wm. J. Buck in 1853,<sup>8</sup> asserts that the town of Hatboro was founded "about the year 1705." This date is almost certainly too early, however, for the good reason that all the land in the vicinity was then held by three owners, none of whom was willing to sell.<sup>9</sup> Nicholas and Sarah More began disposing of their Manor property in 1709, and during the next two years sold all their holdings in the vicinity of Hatboro. On March 7, 1710, they conveyed the 300 acres lying along the Horsham line to Anthony Morris of Philadelphia (Pd E 7, vol. 8, 19), and the tract was long known as the "Morris Purchase," despite its resale to Peter Chamberlin in August of the same year (Pd H 2, 26).

On June 21, 1711, the 200 acres lying directly southeast of the Morris Purchase were sold to Lawrence Thompson (or Thomson), described in the deed as "of Philadelphia County, Husbandman" (Pd E 7, vol. 8, 47). Two months previously, on April 7th, the Mores had conveyed their remaining land in the neighborhood, a huge block of 555 acres, to William Allen of Philadelphia, the father of a later Chief Justice of the Province (Pd E 6, vol. 7, 177).<sup>10</sup> About a year later, Allen sold out to William Walton, a well-known Friends' minister of Byberry township, who divided the land between his sons Isaac (200 acres) and Jeremiah (355 acres) in January, 1715 (Pd F 9, 139).

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<sup>8</sup> *History of Mooreland* in Coll. of Hist. Soc. of Penna., VI, 189 ff; repeated in Bean's *History of Montgomery County*, Chap. XLIV, 722.

<sup>9</sup> The country about Philadelphia was settled very unevenly because in almost every township one or more blocks of land were in strong hands and their owners were holding for higher prices. This usually proved to be a profitable venture, for land bought in 1684 and 1685 for the English equivalent of 10 cents an acre, sold readily 20 or 25 years later at from \$2.50 to \$5.00 per acre, a profit of at least 100% for each year it had been held.

<sup>10</sup> The sale value of these properties was no doubt greatly enhanced by the survey of the York Road, ordered by Council in January, 1711.

Mary More's 225 acres lay undeveloped and half forgotten for almost 50 years, while Peter Chamberlin divided his land among his three children. On March 15, 1715, he gave 150 acres of the Morris Purchase to his daughter Phebe, wife of Thomas Duffield (Pd H 1, 575), and 200 acres in the extreme north corner of his plantation to another daughter Sarah, married to Nicholas Gilbert (Pd H 1, 694). His only son Jacob was given land in 1721 and again in 1724 (Pd F 8, 116 and D 4, 247), and eventually came into possession of all of Penuel not already allotted to his sisters, but whether by deed or devise is not recorded.<sup>11</sup> Duffield and Gilbert were absentee landlords, though both kept their Moreland property for 35 years.<sup>12</sup> Jacob Chamberlin sold off all of his inheritance over a period of about 15 years and left the neighborhood.

The circumstances under which the More and Chamberlin estates were liquidated seem to indicate that the Chamberlin family, and possibly a tenant or two, were the only residents of this vicinity for 15 or 20 years after settlements had sprung up on almost every side.

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<sup>11</sup> The Chamberlin family renounced Quakerism under the influence of their neighbors John Hart and John Swift, who were followers of George Keith, and were baptized at the Pennypack Baptist Church about the year 1702. After Swift moved from Southampton township to Philadelphia, Baptist services were held regularly in the Chamberlin home for many years. Peter Chamberlin was one member of a jury appointed to lay out the York Road in 1711 (Col. Rec. of Penna., I, 539) and the two roads to Governor Keith's plantation in 1722 (Ibid., III, 177); he signed a road petition in 1724, but was evidently not living three years later. His widow Lucy was one of the oldest members of the Southampton Baptist congregation when that church was established in 1745. Cf. *The Southampton Baptist Church* by Gen. W. W. H. Davis in Coll. of Bucks Co. Hist. Soc., Vol. I, pp. 196-209.

<sup>12</sup> Thomas Duffield succeeded his father Benjamin as a tanner on the family estate near Bustleton. Nicholas Gilbert was a son of Samuel Gilbert and a grandson of John Gilbert of Byberry, the progenitor of that family. Nicholas lived on a farm in Warminster township which his father bought in 1704 and gave to his son seven years later (Bd 19, 22).

The first permanent settler in Hatboro itself is generally believed to have been one John Dawson, a former London felt-maker, who founded the town and gave it its name, but the date of his arrival is very uncertain. The 1705 tradition may be safely disregarded, for the reason already given; more credible is the Dawson family version, first put into writing by a great-great-grandson Daniel Longstreth, about 1830. He was the great-grandson of Dawson's daughter Ann, who married Bartholomew Longstreth, the founder of that family.

Young Longstreth wrote that his great-grandmother claimed that her family came to America in 1710. Apparently he was not given the date of their removal to Hatboro, though he described in some detail their difficulties in reaching their new home, saying that their household goods and hatter's tools were brought as far as Abington in a lime-wagon, and from there they were forced to hew a way through the unbroken forest with axe and spade.<sup>13</sup> This statement carries the implication that they made the journey before the York Road was laid out in 1711, or that the right of way was not cleared for traffic until some time later.

Unfortunately, there are almost no contemporary records with which this tradition may be checked. Although Dawson and his family were Quakers, their minutes make no mention either of his arrival from England or his removal within the verge of Abington Meeting.<sup>14</sup> The only pertinent date so far found is March 10, 1719, the day on which he received title to 15½ acres in Hatboro which he had bought from Isaac

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<sup>13</sup> *Dawson Family Records* (Charles C. Dawson, Albany, N. Y., 1874), 411-12; *Longstreth Family Records* (Agnes Longstreth Taylor, Phila., 1909), 39.

<sup>14</sup> This omission may be due to the incompleteness of the early Friends' records or to the fact that Dawson was not a member in good standing at the time. He had failed in business in London and had left the country without paying his debts. This was a serious offense among Quakers, and he was not readmitted to membership on this side until 1730, after he had effected a composition with his British creditors.

Walton, and this date cannot be relied upon as the exact time of settlement, for in those days deeds were often delayed for months or even years after the actual transfer. However, Isaac Walton did not obtain title to his property until January 1715, so it seems reasonable to conclude that Dawson took possession at some time between the two dates.<sup>15</sup>

Another consideration leads to the same conclusion: a tradesman like Dawson would wish to settle at or near a cross-roads, as a most likely center of future population, and in Hatboro this prospect did not arise until after Horsham Meeting had been established, about 1714, and its members had begun to exchange visits with Byberry Meeting. The Horsham-Byberry Road was laid out for the convenience of these two meetings in the spring of 1720,<sup>16</sup> and its route had undoubtedly been used privately for some time previously.

On first thought, it seems absurd that a former London hat-maker should have gone out into the wilderness 20 miles from town to set up a hat factory, and there is a temptation to charge Dawson with the poor business judgment which he is said to have used on other occasions. But his choice of land was a shrewd one, considering his very limited resources, for he bought a long, narrow strip with maximum York Road frontage (lots #2 to #7 inclusive), which is still as valuable as any real estate in the town. He obviously believed that this would be a preferred location in a thriving community, while his distance from market would be compensated for by the cheapness of the land and the abundance of rabbit fur for felt-making.

But while John Dawson may have had the first vision of the future town and in that sense was its founder, it is by no means certain that he was also its first resident. Indeed, the

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<sup>15</sup> The possibility that Dawson moved to Hatboro before he bought his land seems precluded by Daniel Longstreth's statement that his ancestor's first house was a log cabin built on this property (lot #7 on the map).

<sup>16</sup> Road Rec. of Phila. Court of Qr. Sess., Packet 21, M 15.

few records available seem to indicate that one, and possibly two, others had preceded him. One of these persons was Emanuel Dungworth, the builder and first owner of the grist-mill still standing along the Pennypack at the junction of York and Horsham roads. The two-acre lot on which the mill and the residence across Horsham Road were built (lot #1) was purchased from Isaac Walton, while seven acres needed for the pond and race had formerly belonged to Lawrence Thompson. Neither deed was recorded, so the date of transfer cannot be determined, but it is significant that the mill-site was in Dungworth's possession when Dawson's deed was executed, on March 10, 1719,<sup>17</sup> and the mill is known to have been in operation when this stretch of the Horsham Road was surveyed, in April, 1720.

It had probably been built some little time before that date, for suitable mill-sites were in great demand and this location along a strong stream and beside a through highway, with a cross-road in prospect, would hardly have been overlooked for many years after the York Road was opened. Besides, Emanuel Dungworth had completed his apprenticeship with his father Richard, one of the first millers in the Province, and had married Elizabeth Bringhurst in 1713. He was therefore waiting for an opportunity to go into business for himself. He met an untimely end in 1733 (Pw E, 229); Elizabeth carried on the business until 1755 and then sold her property to Daniel Thomas.

While Dawson and Dungworth could hardly have settled in Hatboro before January 1715, when Isaac Walton obtained title to his land, the third possible pioneer, Lawrence Thompson, had owned his property since the spring of 1711, and a house had been built there prior to January 15, 1716, when he and his wife Grace placed a mortgage on their 200 acres (Pd E 7, vol. 9, 334). In all probability, this was the log cabin

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<sup>17</sup> Dawson's deed was not recorded. The existing document (Pd F 4, 103) is a mortgage placed on his property May 20, 1720. It is assumed that the mortgage recited the description in the original indenture, as was customary.

on a small corner of the tract lying on the east side of York Road (lot #8), which is known to have stood there in 1726. It may very well have been the first dwelling erected within the present Borough limits.

The Thompsons did not remain in Hatboro many years; the time of their departure is unknown, but their mortgage was satisfied on June 6, 1723, and that may be the approximate date of the sale of their property. The purchaser is believed to have been a blacksmith named Peter Lycan, who is known to have owned the cabin and lot on the east side of York Road, which he and his wife Bridget sold to Jacob Chamberlin in 1726 (Pd I 1, 84).<sup>18</sup> He apparently disposed of the remainder of his Moreland property within the next few years, for his name is not found in local records after 1734.

A roster of the male residents of the neighborhood in 1724 is provided by a curious petition for a road between the York Road and the Bucks county line along Nicholas Gilbert's southeast boundary, presented to the Court in June of that year, but nullified by a remonstrance at the September session, objecting that the road was unnecessary and would be difficult to maintain, due to the unfavorable terrain.<sup>19</sup> These two documents are believed to contain the name of practically every man living in the vicinity. They indicate that Lawrence Thompson had already left, and that four newcomers had arrived: John Lycan, Isaac Tustin, and Isaac and Jeremiah Walton.

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<sup>18</sup> Peter Lycan came of a Swedish family, resident in Pennsylvania before the English arrived. He should not be confused with his contemporary, Peter Luken (or Lukens) of Horsham. His lot in Hatboro had a frontage of 23 rods on the east side of York Road, from just below Moreland Avenue to about the southwest corner of the H. K. Maurer property. In 1726 the latter point was marked by John Dawson's gate post. Thirty years later it was the corner of the stable of the Crooked Billet Tavern.

<sup>19</sup> Road Rec. of Phila. Court of Qr. Sess., Packet 22, M 23.



Nothing further is known of John Lycan; he was probably related to Peter. Isaac Tustin and his wife Ann had recently bought the 200 acres of the Chamberlin estate lying along the Horsham line between the lands of Thomas Duffield and Nicholas Gilbert, 150 acres of the Morris Purchase and 50 acres of the Strip. The Walton brothers had established residence on the huge tract divided between them nine years before. Jeremiah's house was built on a 10-acre lot facing Byberry Road (lot #11), while Isaac probably lived along the York Road, though the exact location of his house is not known.<sup>20</sup>

By this time the little settlement contained a flouring mill, a hat factory, a blacksmith shop, and perhaps a tavern of sorts, and the prospect of further development was promising enough to attract two non-resident speculators: Sampson Davis and William Stockdale. Davis was a son-in-law of Thomas Shute of the Northern Liberties, who, in partnership with Nicholas Waln, had bought the entire Willow Grove section of the Manor in 1709 (Pd F 7, 264). Young Davis moved to the property in 1718, built the present Morgan's Mills in 1726,<sup>21</sup> and was made an Elder of Horsham Meeting. His name is perpetuated in the steep "Sampson's Hill" on the York Road between Hatboro and Willow Grove. William Stockdale (or Stockdell), of Bucks county, was the ancestor of the Stogdell family.

About the year 1730, Davis bought John Dawson's home lot (lot #7) and a triangular plot of about 10 acres lying between Byberry Road and the Manor line (lot #9), the latter presumably from Isaac Walton. He is also believed to have purchased 53 acres of the Thompson tract east of Dungworth's mill pond from Peter Lycan. Stockdale bought the

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<sup>20</sup> There is some reason to believe that Isaac Walton's first house stood on the site of, and may be a part of, John C. Miller's present residence. Walton was living in this immediate vicinity on Feb. 10, 1733, when he was called in to witness the will of Emanuel Dungworth.

<sup>21</sup> Road Rec. of Phila. Court of Qr. Sess., Packet 22, M 33.

remaining 10 acres at the east end of the Thompson place (lot #17), supposedly from Lycan, and 15 acres of adjoining land (lot #18) from Jacob Chamberlin.<sup>22</sup>

Development of the community proceeded at an accelerated pace during the decade of 1730-1740, and some of its details can be traced in the census of *Landholders of Philadelphia County*, taken by order of the Proprietary in 1734.<sup>23</sup>

The Manor list shows that John Dawson had divided his property into lots, and had disposed of all his land except three and a half acres on the west side of York Road opposite the end of Byberry Road (lot #5). Two lots (lots #2 & 4) had been taken over by his son Daniel (Pd I 15, 381) who learned his father's trade and later moved to the city. A third lot (lot #3) was owned by his son-in-law William Hancock (Pd I 15, 381), with whom John and Dorothy Dawson then lived in a long one-story stone house which stood on about the site of the present Methodist Church.<sup>24</sup> Hancock was then a carpenter, but he later kept a general store in this house. A small lot at the corner of York and Byberry roads (lot #6) had been sold to Charles Haftee (later known as Hufty) of Lower Dublin township (Pd G 2, 299).

As already stated, Dawson's home lot (lot #7) had been sold to Sampson Davis some years before. This lot contained a trifle less than four and a half acres of ground; its York Road frontage extended from the southwest corner of the present Maurer property to within eight rods of the end of Byberry Road. The greater part of its area lay in a strip of land 20 rods wide in the rear of the Peter Lycan lot (lot #8) and

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<sup>22</sup> None of the indentures were recorded, but they are referred to in Pd G 2, 299; G 10, 380; and X 4, 17.

<sup>23</sup> Publs. of Genealog. Soc. of Penna., I, 166-184.

<sup>24</sup> Daniel Longstreth wrote that this was the third dwelling built by John Dawson in Hatboro. It was standing in 1830, and had a date-stone in the wall beside the door, inscribed "I D D 1745." This date must have been misread, however, for John and Dorothy Dawson moved to Philadelphia in 1742, and he died there shortly afterward.

extending to the Manor line. It was here, according to Daniel Longstreth, that Dawson's first log cabin was built. Some years later, probably about 1726,<sup>25</sup> he built the stone house on the York Road frontage, later known as the "Crooked Billet."

Tradition has it that Dawson was the first proprietor of the Crooked Billet Tavern, but the true state of affairs was probably stated precisely by Longstreth when he wrote that his ancestor "kept a house of private entertainment" there, implying that he took over-night, paying guests, but did not keep a public tavern. Dwellings along the York Road were few and far between for several years after it was opened, and travelers were accustomed to apply for lodgings at the nearest house when night came on. The more popular hosts later opened their homes as taverns, but it seems unlikely that traffic along the road in the 1720s was heavy enough to have justified Dawson in paying the stiff fee required for a liquor license.

Shortly after 1730 one Standish Ford settled in Hatboro, buying part or all of Sampson Davis property and also William Stockdale's 10-acre lot opposite the Dawson house (Pd G 2, 299 & I 15, 381). His purchase of the former Dawson property was made on June 13, 1732, and was probably followed by the licensing of the tavern under the management of the first known tavern-keeper, Nathaniel Loofbourrow.<sup>26</sup> The business apparently became prosperous immediately, for the house and lot changed owners several times during the next

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<sup>25</sup> This is a tentative date, based entirely on a tradition of the Longstreth family, which relates that Bartholomew Longstreth was first attracted to Ann Dawson by her industry as a mason's helper while her father was building this house, and that she spurned his attentions for some time, due to the disparity in their ages. They were married at Horsham Meeting on or about February 5, 1728; if the courtship was an unusually long one, the house would have been under construction a year or two before that date.

<sup>26</sup> The will of "Nathaniel Loofbourrow of Hatborough, Innholder" was probated Aug. 13, 1740 (Pw F, 166).

20 years at increasing prices (Pd G 2, 299; G 7, 265; G 10, 380), and it was probably after one of these transfers that the name "Crooked Billet" was adopted.<sup>27</sup> All these sales included the former Stockdale lot on the opposite side of York Road, which was considered an integral part of the tavern property for 40 years or more.<sup>28</sup>

At some date not now ascertainable, the former Peter Lycan cabin and lot were occupied by David Marple, Sr., the ancestor of that well-known family, who had formerly lived on a plantation near Bethayres, which he bought in 1708 (Pd E 4, vol. 7, 43). Now a very old man, he died in Hathboro in 1739 (Pw F, 136). In the spring of 1734, he bought the house and lot from Jacob Chamberlin, and with it 56 acres (later surveyed as 64 acres) of adjoining farm land (Pd I.1, 84), bounded on the northwest by York Road, on the northeast by the present line of Montgomery Avenue, on the southeast by the present line of Warminster Road, and on the southwest by Byberry Road and the Manor line. At his death, the property descended to his son Richard, who died intestate about the end of the year 1755. The land was then divided by the Orphans' Court among his four children: Richard, Susannah, Northrup and David, all of whom sold their inheritance

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<sup>27</sup> The name is first found in a deed dated August 16, 1746. At that time, the tavern had just been bought by Thomas Palmer, Jr., the wayward son of the venerable Thomas Palmer of Horsham. Young Palmer had recently been disowned by Horsham Meeting for a series of misdemeanors; he died without issue about five months later (Phila. adm. bk. F, 77).

<sup>28</sup> About the year 1736 a competing tavern was opened by Jacob Chamberlin either in his late father's house at the intersection of Pioneer and County Line Roads or on one of his lots on the west side of York Road above Moreland Avenue. The larger of these lots (lot #18), sold at some indeterminate date to William Stockdale, had a house on it on approximately the site of Smith's Garage in 1748 (Pd G 10, 380), and probably for several years before that date. In any event, Chamberlin had neglected to obtain a tavern license, and was soon fined and put out of business by the Court (Col. Rec. of Penna., IV, 224).

to others during the next few years (Pd I 6, 524 & I 16, 184).<sup>29</sup>

Jacob Chamberlin had already begun the dispersal of Penuel Plantation by sale of 103 acres on the north side of the Davisville Road to James Craven of Warminster in 1731 (Md 138, 73), and of 56 acres at the extreme southeast end of the plantation to Thomas Lacey of Philadelphia two years later (Md 54, 436). The Marple place and 209 acres lying between it and the county line had been mortgaged to the General Loan Office of the Province in 1729. After the sale to Marple, the remaining 209 acres were refinanced by Elizabeth Fletcher of Abington (Pd F 8, 116), who foreclosed in 1741 and sold the land to James Erwin, who had been a tenant on the place for several years (Md 9, 477). In the fall of 1736, Chamberlin closed out his remaining holdings below York Road by selling 153 acres to another tenant, John Jones (Pd I 8, 431), and the home place of 312 acres to Jacob Bellew of Staten Island (Pd F 10, 303). This left him only two lots, totaling 24 acres, on the west side of York Road. The larger lot, 15 acres and a house (lot #18), was sold at an unknown date to William Stockdale (Pd G 2, 299 & G 10, 380), while the remaining 9 acres (lot #19), described as "a field or tract of cleared land," were transferred to one John White on May 19, 1738 (Pd X 4, 17). After his unsuccessful venture as a tavern-keeper, young Chamberlin moved out of the township.

The next known settler in the village itself was Hatboro's first resident physician, Dr. John Crosley, who bought a two-acre lot at the southeast corner of York and Byberry roads (lot #10) from Isaac Walton about the year 1735,<sup>30</sup> and built

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<sup>29</sup> It may have been a dispute about this settlement which developed into a local *cause célèbre* — a fist-fight between Richard and Northrup which was carried to the Court of Quarter Sessions for Philadelphia County (Docket for June and December, 1756).

<sup>30</sup> His name is first found in a petition for a road in Horsham township, dated Dec. 1, 1736 (Road Rec. of Phila. Court of Qr. Sess., Packet 24, M 66). A landmark of the colonial village was an "English cherry tree," planted by Dr. Crosley at the side of York Road to mark the southwest corner of his property.

the long stone house still standing near the sidewalk opposite the National Bank building. Like many other pioneers, he invested his savings in local real estate, his favorite method being to mortgage his unencumbered property to finance further acquisitions. His first known venture was the nine-acre field at the corner of York Road and Monument Avenue (lot #19), bought in 1740 from John White, who had received it from Jacob Chamberlin two years before (Pd X 4, 17).<sup>81</sup> A year or two later, he bought the adjoining 15 acres (lot #18) from John Harrison, to whom it had evidently been sold by William Stockdale. At about the same time, he added ten acres in the rear of his home lot (lot # 12) from the Isaac Walton estate (Md 3, 324), as well as Byberry Road frontage in the upper end of the Mary Keach tract, purchased from John Harrison. In 1747, he acquired the Crooked Billet Tavern and the two lots which went with it (Pd G 10, 380), presumably from the estate of Thomas Palmer, Jr. Eleven years later, he bought 30 acres of the Richard Marple land (Pd X 4, 17), then divided among Marple's four heirs, as described above. The lot behind his own house and the adjoining Keach property were sold before 1760 (Pd H 11, 451), but his other investments were kept by Dr. Crosley until his death in 1769, and were then inherited by his favorite son Charles (Pw 0, 368).

Strangely enough, a second physician, Dr. Hugh Mathews, settled in Hatboro about 1740, buying Standish Ford's 53 acres of the former Thompson property east of the mill pond and the west half of the Tustin farm along the Horsham line (Md 2, 608). His residence was a two-story, hip-roofed stone house on the west side of York Road, almost opposite the Crooked Billet. He apparently had a somewhat better medical education than Dr. Crosley, for he was qualified to practice surgery as well as "physick." Perhaps he found the com-

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<sup>81</sup> At the extreme northwest corner of this lot, now the corner of Monument and Linden Avenues, Dr. Crosley set apart a family burial ground and enclosed it with a stone wall (Md 48, 500).



munity too small for his talents, for he moved to Philadelphia in 1750, and sold his land to Daniel Thomas.

In the early spring of 1739 a young man arrived in Hatboro from England, whose coming must have caused no little comment in the neighborhood. He was John Harrison, a great-grandson of Dr. Nicholas More and the only surviving grandchild of Dr. More's daughter Mary, who had married a Baptist minister named Elias Keach, and had moved back to England about the year 1692. Before leaving the Province, she had disposed of all her land in the Manor except about 225 acres southeast of Hatboro, which was probably unsalable at the time.<sup>32</sup>

Mary Keach lived out her life in England, leaving an only daughter Hannah, who married one Revitt Harrison, by whom she had one son, John. In 1739, after half a century of neglect, young Harrison was sent back to Moreland by his mother to take possession of his grandmother's inheritance. In addition to the 225 acres, Hannah Harrison had a legal claim to the land sold many years before by Nicholas More, Jr., and his sister Sarah, and the then owners were compelled to pay her roundly for new deeds to clear their titles.<sup>33</sup>

John Harrison settled in Hatboro and married Mary Corson, daughter of Benjamin Corson of Bucks county.<sup>34</sup> Shortly after his arrival, he bought John Dawson's remaining lot (lot #5) and built the stone house which in recent years formed the east end of the Hatboro Hotel property and was razed in 1939, after a disastrous fire.<sup>35</sup> He sold this house and lot in a year or two and bought a lot across the road (lot #13). There he built the present Wunderle mansion, where he kept

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<sup>32</sup> Marked "Mary Keach" on the map. It was the upper end of a long strip of 776 acres, which the Keach family had named "Gillead."

<sup>33</sup> Her branch of the More family had never executed the deeds of release considered necessary under the law.

<sup>34</sup> Penna. Arch., Second Ser., IX, 15.

<sup>35</sup> A date-stone in the east wall of the house was inscribed "In Harr 1739."

a village store at the time of his death about the end of the year 1747. During his few years of residence, he had owned at least two other lots in the village,<sup>36</sup> and had disposed of all but 60 acres of his ancestral estate. About 125 acres at the upper end of the tract had been sold to John Crosley and Margaret Loofbourrow (Pd H 11, 451), but the acreage taken by each of them cannot be determined from the meagre records available. Forty acres on the north side of the Davisville Road were sold to Thomas Lloyd (Md 5, 235), in whose family they remained for several generations. At his death, John Harrison owned only 60 acres of his patrimony and the house in which he lived, and both of these properties had to be sold by his administrators to pay his debts.<sup>37</sup> The house and lot were sold to Bartholomew Longstreth and the 60 acres to Joseph Eaton of Southampton. The Longstreth lot was later inherited by Bartholomew's son Isaac (Md 3, 324), while Eaton soon conveyed his 60 acres to Joshua Potts. In 1754, Potts sold the land to Michael Riderpoke (Md 24, 503), who lived there until the end of the Revolution.

Jeremiah Walton died in February, 1741, and in December of the following year his brother Isaac confirmed the 10-acre lot on which he had lived (lot #11) to his widow Elizabeth, who remained in possession until her death in 1787 (Md 15, 381). The 355 acres given to Jeremiah by his father in 1715 lay undivided until 1763 and were then apportioned among three of his sons: Thomas (Md 9, 338), Jacob (Md 4, 500), and Jeremiah (Md 7, 623), all of whom passed their land on to their descendants at the end of the century.

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<sup>36</sup> Lot #18 was apparently bought from William Stockdale and sold to John Crosley (Pd G 10, 380); lot #9 was bought either from Sampson Davis or Standish Ford (Pd G 2, 299) and sold to an unknown buyer, probably Moses Vancourt. Lot #5 was sold to William Hallowell of Abington (Md 15, 383), and lot #13 was bought from Thomas Potts.

<sup>37</sup> Phila. Orphans' Court Docket 3, pp. 63, 69, 74. The administration papers show that Harrison was indebted to almost every man in town; an important creditor was Dr. Hugh Mathews, who attended him in his last illness.



Isaac Walton had already disposed of several small sections of his 200 acres from time to time, as described above, and in 1741 he put on the market his remaining land on the east side of York Road. Of 38½ acres lying between Byberry Road and the present Cemetery Avenue, 10 acres (lot #12) were taken by John Crosley (Pd H 11, 451; Md 3, 324), 5 acres (lots #13 & 14) by Thomas Potts (Pd H 11, 451 & I 14, 398), and the remaining 23½ acres (then surveyed as 20 acres) by Margaret Loofbourrow. Another 45 acres, lying west of Cemetery Avenue (lot #28), were also bought by Potts (Pd I 10, 247; Md 15, 377).

Isaac Walton then moved to land which he owned in Byberry township, but in 1748 he returned to Moreland and exchanged his Byberry property with his brother-in-law Thomas Mardon for 111 acres of the former Thompson tract, lying west of Horsham Road (Pd I 3, 77), which the latter had bought at some unknown earlier date, presumably from Peter Lycan. This exchange gave Walton the equivalent of his original 200 acres, but within the next few years he sold 190 acres to Joshua Potts (Pd I 10, 247), reserving only a 10-acre lot along Mill Road (lot #27), on which he was living at the time of his death in 1755.<sup>38</sup> Ten years later, his widow Sarah was obliged to sell this 10 acres to Samuel Shoemaker, mason, in order to pay her debts.

Thomas and Joshua Potts were father and son. The father was normally a resident of Burlington county, New Jersey, but he spent the years 1741-44 in Southampton township Bucks county, where he was instrumental in founding the Southampton Baptist Church. In 1741 he bought the three lots in Hatboro just mentioned, as well as Daniel Dawson's two lots (lots # 2 & 4) on the opposite side of York Road (Pd I 15, 381-2; Md 15, 377). Shortly afterwards, he sold

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<sup>38</sup> Phila. Orphans' Court Docket 7, pp. 70, 106, 171. Little is known of Isaac Walton's family. In her petition to the Court, Sarah Walton (nee Kennet) asserted that she was left with six children. Martindale's *History of Byberry and Moreland*, pp. 373-5, records the names of only three.

one of the lots on the east side of the road (lot # 13) to John Harrison, and built the present American Legion house on the adjoining lot (lot #14), which he deeded to his son Joshua in February, 1743 (Pd H 11, 451). Later, Joshua also was given the 45-acre tract and the Dawson lot nearest the Creek (Md 15, 377; Pd I 15, 382). The second Dawson lot (lot #4) was sold to others, as will be explained later.

Joshua Potts was a cripple, and in addition was afflicted with an incurable internal ailment which carried him off in 1761, at the age of 43.<sup>39</sup> Despite these handicaps, he became one of Hatboro's most energetic and public-spirited citizens: he was one of the four organizers of the Union Library Company, and the first pastor of the Southampton Baptist Church; tradition says that he was likewise the first village school-master in the little school-house on Byberry Road. He was also a shrewd judge of land values and at one time or another during his 20 years of residence, owned nearly 400 acres of land in and about Hatboro. In 1759 he built the dwelling on the present Restine estate, now used as a farm-house, and moved there from the American Legion house, which he then sold to Jacob Tomkins (Pd H 11, 451). At about the same time, he sold the former Dawson lot beside the Creek (lot #2) to William Hancock, owner of the adjoining house and lot (Pd I 15, 382). After his death, his executors sold his new house and 197 acres of surrounding land on the west side of York Road to William Folwell of Bucks county (Pd I 10, 247). The 45 acres on the east side of the road (lot #28) were sold at the same time to Daniel Dungan (Md 13, 178), and his holdings in the upper end of the Mary Keach tract probably went to David Rees, though the latter deed was not recorded.

Margaret Loofbourrow, whose name has already been mentioned, was the widow of Nathaniel Loofbourrow, the first known keeper of the Crooked Billet Tavern. After his death in 1740, she invested the proceeds of his estate in the

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<sup>39</sup> Further details in *The Potts Family in America* (Thos. Maxwell Potts, Canonsburg, Pa., 1901).

local properties described in previous pages.<sup>40</sup> In 1742, she married David Rees,<sup>41</sup> a cabinet-maker from Bucks county. Three years later, Rees bought the former John Harrison house and lot (lot #5) on the west side of York Road from William Hallowell (Md 15, 383) and a little over half an acre of the adjoining lot (lot #4). Part of this ground had passed into the possession of John Lukens of Horsham; the remainder was bought directly from Thomas Potts.<sup>42</sup> Here Rees established Hatboro's first furniture factory, while his wife continued to manage the Crooked Billet Tavern. He also made coffins and owned a hearse, thus becoming the town's first undertaker. As a prominent citizen, he was chosen an officer of the Union Library Company for several years. The couple prospered, and during David's lifetime bought the 10-acre lot (lot #12) behind Dr. Crosley's house (Pd H 11, 451) as well as the remainder of the 125 acres comprising the upper end of the Mary Keach tract. After his death in 1762,<sup>43</sup> Margaret gave up the management of the Tavern and sold

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<sup>40</sup> That is, lots #15 & 16 and an unknown portion of the upper end of the Mary Keach tract. Unless there is an error in Md 24, 505, the latter property was first bought by Margaret Loofbourrow from John Harrison, then sold to Joshua Potts, and finally bought back again by David Rees, Margaret's second husband. The carelessness with which property limits were defined in those days is well illustrated in this deed of 1754, which describes one corner marker as "the stump of a hickory sapling having one green limb on it."

<sup>41</sup> *Rec. of Abington Presbyterian Church* (Penna. Arch., Second Ser., IX, 192).

<sup>42</sup> Lot #4 lay eastward from Lehman Avenue and had a road frontage of 18 rods, of which the two small lots purchased by Rees accounted for 5 rods. The remainder, containing about 1½ acres, may have been sold by Potts to Daniel Dungan, who was its owner in 1763 (Pd I 16, 142). It was later a part of the estate of David Kennedy (Md 38, 416), but the intermediate owners are unknown.

<sup>43</sup> Pw M, 297. His personal property was appraised at \$1159; it included a number of unfinished desks and chests, coffins and a "Hers" (probably the contents of the cabinet shop), much bedroom furniture and a quantity of provisions (evidently belonging to the Tavern).

the house and lots along York Road to Mathias Harvey of Makefield township, Bucks county (Md 15, 383).<sup>44</sup>

Margaret Rees kept the remainder of her husband's estate intact until her own death in 1767 (Pw O, 413). Although she was survived by eight children, four by each of her husbands, she devised all the real estate to David Rees, Jr., then established as a hatter in Philadelphia. Young Rees bought the Crosley homestead (lot #10) after Dr. Crosley's death in 1769, but six years later sold his entire holdings, about 140 acres, to David Kennedy (Md 27, 404).

It has already been noted that Isaac and Ann Tustin sold the west half of their 200 acres along the Horsham line to Dr. Hugh Mathews about the year 1741. In December of that year they deeded the other half to David Marple, Jr. (Pd D 4, 247), a son of Richard Marple and a grandson of David Marple, Sr. At that time there were no improvements on the east end of the plantation and Marple was granted a right of way to Horsham Road past the Tustin residence. However, he chose a site near the center of his purchase, and built the oldest section of the present Warner house. During his lifetime, his sons John and David<sup>45</sup> were settled on farms along the Mann Road in Horsham township (Pd H 6, 15). After his death in 1780 (Pw R, 333), the home farm was divided between two other sons, Nathan and Abel, who remained in possession until after 1800.

James Erwin died in 1743, leaving his 209 acres to his three children: Abraham, Martha and Samuel. Samuel bought out the other heirs a few years later and became one of the most influential and respected members of the community. He was a faithful member and officer of the Union Library Company throughout his lifetime, and from 1759 was chosen

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<sup>44</sup> This sale did not include lot #15, which had been sold during David Rees' lifetime. It was owned by John Jones in 1760 (Pd H 11, 451) and was later a part of the David Kennedy estate (Md 38, 416).

<sup>45</sup> David Marple, 3rd, was Captain of the Horsham Company of Pennsylvania Militia from 1777 to 1780.

a member of the county grand jury almost every year until 1772, when he was elected the local Justice of the Peace, an office which he held for almost 30 years.<sup>46</sup> The Warminster Road was laid out along his southeast line in 1761,<sup>47</sup> and Montgomery Avenue along the southwest line some time after 1800. During the winter and spring of 1778, about 20 acres of his land near the York Road were used as a camp-site by the Pennsylvania Militia, under Brigadier General John Lacey, Jr. By 1796 he had become incapacitated by old age and sold his farm to Isaac Beans, of Warminster (Md 9, 477).

It was probably during John Harrison's lifetime that the triangular lot now occupied by Garner's Lumber Yard and the dwellings along the north side of Byberry Avenue (lot #9) was bought and improved by Moses Vancourt,<sup>48</sup> formerly of Newtown, Bucks county. There he established Hatboro's first cooper-shop and built a family residence along his Byberry Road frontage. He was also known as a tanner, from which it may be assumed that he bought three-quarters of an acre of the David Rees lot on the west side of York Road (lot #5), and opened the tanyard which stood near the site of Borough Hall within the memory of persons still living. The tanvats were supplied with water by a little stream which ran through the lot on which the cooper-shop was built, and under York Road. Its passage through the Crooked Billet lot was safeguarded by a water-right, obtained from successive owners. One branch of this stream had its source in the spring-house of Samuel Erwin, until recently owned by Christian Tanner, and the other came from a strong spring on the east side of Warminster Road, known during Colonial days as "Ten Pound Spring." Vancourt sold his Hatboro property about the year 1759 and moved to Bethayres, where he opened the locally famous Vancourt's Tavern.

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<sup>46</sup> Prior to 1772, Hatboro and vicinity were within the jurisdiction of Justice Archibald McClean of Horsham, who was first elected in 1758.

<sup>47</sup> Road Rec. of Phila. Court of Qr. Sess., Packet 28, M 163.

<sup>48</sup> His name is first found in local records in the year 1754, when he was appointed constable of Moreland township.

The year 1747 was marked by the death of Jacob Bellew, who had bought 312 acres of Penuel Plantation from Jacob Chamberlin 11 years before.<sup>49</sup> He and his wife Ann formed one of several Huguenot refugee families which had first settled on Staten Island and later moved to Bucks or Philadelphia counties. Jacob's will<sup>50</sup> gave his entire landed estate to his son Isaac, who sold 75 acres along Byberry Road to Charles Garrison in 1751 (Pd H 4, 189) and occupied the remainder of the plantation until 1795. In that year he gave 207 acres lying on both sides of the county line to his son-in-law Joseph Folwell in exchange for the latter's 187 acres on the west side of York Road below Hatboro (Md 55, 405). He died in the farmhouse of the Restine estate in 1803, leaving the surrounding land to his son Nathaniel B., and dividing the remaining 128 acres of his ancestral plantation equally between his daughters Sarah, wife of William Wilson, and Rachel, married to Robert Barnes (Mw 2, 350).

In 1749, Nicholas Gilbert's 200 acres were divided among six of his seven children: John, Benjamin, Mary, Peter, Jacob and Joseph (Pd D 6, 123; Md 11, 71 & 53, 561). The division was made in such a way that John, who was already in residence,<sup>51</sup> received 75 acres on the west side of York Road at the southwest end of the tract (lot #20), and the other children 25 acres each, as follows: Benjamin, a lot 31 rods wide east of

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<sup>49</sup> "Bellew" or "Belleu" were the spellings used by Jacob and his son Isaac; later generations adopted the original form "Boileau." About 225 acres of the plantation lay in Moreland; the remainder was on the opposite side of the Bucks county line.

<sup>50</sup> Pw H, 401. Only two children, Isaac Bellew and Martha McClean, were mentioned and a deed of 1751 (Pd F 10, 293) described Isaac as the "only surviving son." Daniel Bellew, who bought land in Moreland in 1753 (Pd I 8, 450), and Jacob and Jeremiah Bellew, sons-in-law of John Jones (Pd D 6, 132), apparently belonged to another branch of the family.

<sup>51</sup> His house, now converted into apartments by L. C. Schneider, is believed to have been General John Lacey's headquarters before the Battle of the Billet on May 1, 1778.

John's (lot #21); Mary, wife of John Jones, a lot 38 rods wide east of Benjamin's (lot #22); and Peter, a lot 44 rods wide, lying between Mary's land and the county line (lot #23). On the east side of the road, Jacob was given 25 acres in the middle of the block (lot #24), and his brother Joseph the two ends (lots #25 & 26).

John Gilbert, a cripple, lived on his 75 acres until his death in 1794, and was succeeded by his son Jonathan (Mw 1, 395; Md 11, 71), who divided the greater part of it between Phebe Jones and Nathan Marple seven years later (Md 27, 200 & 52, 365). Benjamin Gilbert died a few years after the settlement, and his land was apparently sold to Peter, who then conveyed it to his brother-in-law John Jones (Md 11, 71; Pw M, 230). Peter Gilbert also died a few years later, and in 1764 his widow Abigail married John Tomkins,<sup>52</sup> son of Robert Tomkins of Warminster. After Abigail's death during the Revolution, Tomkins married Elizabeth Ball and opened a licensed tavern on the York Road frontage of the property, about 100 yards below the county line. He died in 1787, specifying in his will (Mw 1, 113) that after Elizabeth's death the land should revert to Abigail's four daughters by Peter Gilbert: Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth and Mary. Elizabeth Ball Tomkins then married Harman Yerkes, in whose name the tavern was licensed for a number of years. The heirs of Peter and Abigail Gilbert finally got possession in 1820 and sold the property to Edward Yerkes (Md 62, 63).

Jacob Gilbert's 25 acres on the east side of the road were sold almost immediately to "John Honey of Moreland, Turner," who reconveyed the land in 1750 to Samuel Shoemaker (Md 53, 561), son of George and Christiana (Brown) Shoemaker of Cheltenham. A house had already been built on the property—possibly the present George Neff house—and young Shoemaker added a tanyard on the bank of Warminster Creek, which he operated until his death in 1818 (Mw 5, 44) at the age of 93 years. He prospered greatly during his life-

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<sup>52</sup> *Rec. of First Presbyterian Church of Phila.* (Penn. Arch., Second Ser., II, 342).

time and in 1782 bought 50 acres on the opposite side of York Road from the heirs of John and Mary Jones (Pd D 6, 123). Having no children of their own, he and his wife<sup>53</sup> gave generously to their less fortunate relatives and to Horsham Meeting, of which they were devout members. During his earlier years, he was frequently called upon for duty on the county jury, but his public service ended with the Revolution, during which he was subjected to triple taxation on account of his religious beliefs. After his death, the home place was given to his wife's niece Agnes Comly during her lifetime, and then to his own great-great-nephew Samuel Shoemaker, who sold it to Dr. Gove Mitchell in 1837 (Md 53, 564). The 50 acres on the west side of York Road were devised to Agnes Comly's son Asa, who owned them until 1880 (Md 253, 119).

The title to Joseph Gilbert's two lots (lots #25 & 26) is somewhat obscure. The point of land between York Road and Monument Avenue belonged to one William Muckleroy in 1758, when the latter road was laid out,<sup>54</sup> and other land had been sold to Henry Crosley before Dr. John Crosley's death in 1769 (Pw O, 368), but its exact location is unknown. The part of Muckleroy's lot which lay at the junction of the two roads was owned during the Revolutionary period by Abel Fitzwater and later by William Search, a shoemaker (Md 52, 300), while two acres to the northeast on the same side of the road were bought by John Jones during his lifetime and sold to his brother-in-law John Gilbert, who left them to his daughter Jane (Mw 1, 395). Six years later, she sold part of the two acres to Dr. William Bachelor (Md 40, 84) and gave the remainder to her sister Martha, wife of Joseph Croasdale (Mw 2, 149).

Joseph Gilbert's 19½ acres along the county line (lot #25) were owned from 1773 to 1778 by Dr. Clement Dungan, who succeeded Dr. Crosley as Hatboro's resident physician.

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<sup>53</sup> Agnes, daughter of Robert and Jane (Cadwallader) Comly of Horsham.

<sup>54</sup> Road Rec. of Phila. Court of Qr. Sess., Packet 27, M 142.



After Dr. Dungan's untimely death, the property descended to his daughter Elizabeth, who rented it to a shoemaker named Henry Puff.<sup>55</sup> In 1797 she conveyed the property to John Hough (Md 10, 306), and he was succeeded by Dr. John Hart, who lived and practiced there for a short time. In 1804, Dr. Hart sold the property to Dr. Gove Mitchell (Md 18, 335), then just beginning his long period of service to the community.

Thomas and Phebe Duffield were no longer living on March 3, 1749, when their heirs deeded their 150 acres along the Horsham line to Thomas Duffield, Jr., one of the sons (Pd H 1, 575). Two years later, young Duffield sold the land to William Adams (Md 8, 286), described as a weaver. Adams died in 1757 (Pw L, 22), leaving 100 acres to his elder son Samuel and 50 acres to the younger son Joseph. Samuel Adams was constable of the Manor in 1759 and overseer of roads two years later. By 1767, both he and his brother had moved to Philadelphia, and the two farms were sold to Lawrence Sentman (Md 8, 284-6), who owned them until after 1800.

In 1751, Daniel Thomas bought Dr. Hugh Mathews' plantation and moved from Abington to the Mathews residence on the York Road opposite the Crooked Billet. Four years later, he purchased the Dungworth mill for his eldest son Daniel, and during the next few years added three small lots adjoining the mill site. A pious and public-spirited man, he took an active part in the affairs of Horsham Meeting, and was elected the first treasurer of the Union Library Company in 1755. After his death in the fall of 1760 (Phila. adm. bk. G, 238) at the age of 49, his estate was managed by Daniel, Jr., who deeded the Mathews house and 90 acres of adjoining land to his younger brother Mordecai, retaining for himself the mill and 70 acres of his father's property (Md 2, 608).

Daniel Thomas, Jr. took his father's place as a leader in the civic and religious life of the community. He was an officer of the Union Library Company for many years, and from

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<sup>55</sup> *Assessment of Moreland, 1785* (Montg. Co. Archives).

1763 was called frequently for service on the county grand jury. During the Revolution, he was compelled to pay triple taxes for his Quaker non-conformity. In 1769 he was active in promoting the first bridge over the Pennypack, built by private subscription.<sup>56</sup>

In 1777, Daniel Thomas bought 45 acres on the east side of York Road opposite the mill (lot #28) and, in 1782, 36 acres of the Cadwallader estate across the Horsham line. The 45 acres had been sold by the executors of Joshua Potts to Daniel Dungan in 1762 (Md 13, 178), and by Dungan to one John Greasley of Richland township, Bucks county, in 1764 (Pd D 5, 366). Greasley then built a saw-mill on the property, for which he was assessed in 1769.<sup>57</sup> At the close of the Revolution, Daniel Thomas bought a mill on the Wissahickon and moved to Germantown. In 1785, he sold the saw-mill and 14 acres to Thomas Lloyd (Md 2, 606) and the grist-mill, with his remaining Moreland property, to his brother Mordecai (Md 2, 608).<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> This was a wooden bridge, replaced by a stone structure 20 years later. These two bridges and the ford which preceded them were about 50 feet nearer the mill building than the present right of way, and the old road made a sharp bend at either end of the crossing. The stone bridge was only wide enough for one-way traffic, and its single high arch was so narrow that both approaches were inundated when the creek was in flood. About 1810 the roadway south of the bridge was moved 20 feet to the eastward by order of the General Assembly, and this increased the angle of approach on that side. The third bridge, built in 1837 (Montg. Court Docket VII, 162-3), was made both wider and longer, and was placed further down stream to remove the bends in the road. This is the present bridge, though extensive alterations were made some years ago. The dedication stone of the older stone bridge was transferred to the newer one, and appears to carry the date 1780, but the Court record (Ibid. I, 193) fixes the year as 1789. Other interesting details of the earlier bridges are found in Wm. J. Buck's chapter, *Borough of Hatboro*, in Bean's *History of Montgomery County*, pp. 723-4.

<sup>57</sup> *Assessment of Moreland, 1769* (Penna. Arch., Third Ser., XIV, 121-126).

<sup>58</sup> Power for the saw-mill was supplied by a race which left the creek a short distance below the bridge and described a wide arc above

It has already been said that Michael Riderpoke (also written Rhidepoak, Riderpaugh, Ridenbach and Badenback) and his wife Barbara bought 60 acres in the center of the Mary Keach tract in the year 1754 (Md 24, 503). They lived there until Michael's death in 1783, in the meantime adding to their estate some 235 acres on the opposite side of Byberry Road. Their first purchase was the 103 acres on the north side of the Davisville Road which James Craven had bought from Jacob Chamberlin in 1731; Craven had sold the property to Thomas Carrington in 1749 (Md 138, 73), and Carrington and his wife Mary conveyed it to Riderpoke nine years later (Md 53, 478). In 1765, they acquired the 75 acres opposite their home plantation which Isaac Bellew had sold to Charles and Elizabeth Garrison 14 years before (Md 53, 478). Finally, in 1771, they bought the two lots at the southeast end of the old Chamberlin plantation which Jacob Chamberlin had sold to Thomas Lacey in 1733.<sup>59</sup> Lacey had transferred them to Randolph (or Randle) Morgan, who conveyed them in his old age to Riderpoke.

About 25 acres of the Carrington purchase, at the corner of Pioneer and Davisville roads, were apparently sold to one Daniel Thompson soon after Riderpoke obtained possession (Md 7, 79), but his remaining land was kept intact until his death. It was then divided (Pw S, 347) among his three married daughters and their husbands: John and Rosannah Harner were given the home place, now estimated as 66 acres, and a 14-acre field at the north corner of Byberry and Davisville roads; John and Sophia Rhoads received the balance of

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the low ground on the west bank. In the year 1800, the race became a property line and was described as "an old race or ditch" (Md 13, 178); 16 years later it was still known as "Greasley's saw mill race" (Md 35, 36). Apparently the race was then abandoned although Thomas Lloyd had been assessed for a fulling- and saw-mill on this 14 acres in 1796 and 1797.

<sup>59</sup> This Thomas Lacey, a "victualler" of Philadelphia, is thought to have been a great-uncle of General John Lacey, Jr., of Revolutionary fame.

the Garrison and Carrington tracts; while Henry and Elizabeth Bickley<sup>60</sup> inherited the 57 acres formerly belonging to Randolph Morgan. The Harners sold their land to Richard Kimble in 1806 (Md 24, 505), but the other families held their properties until after 1830.

When the Richard Marple estate was broken up in 1756-7, the Court gave 22 acres to the oldest son Richard, 15 acres to a daughter Susannah, wife of Samuel Butcher, another 15 acres to a younger son Northrup, and the remaining 8½ acres, with the family residence, to the youngest son David. All of Richard's and Northrup's land and 5½ acres of David's were sold almost immediately to their neighbor, Moses Vancourt, while Susannah's 15 acres were bought by another neighbor, John Jones. When Vancourt left the neighborhood, a year or two later, he sold 13¾ acres to Jones and the remainder to John Crosley (Pd I 6, 524 & X 4, 17).

The three acres remaining in young David Marple's possession formed a long, narrow strip on the east side of York Road, including the former Peter Lycan cabin and lot and adjoining land lying on both sides of the present East Moreland Avenue. In December 1757, Marple conveyed this property to Abraham Bond (Pd I 16, 184), a chairmaker, who operated a small chair-factory on the premises until his death in 1775. During his ownership, he replaced the log cabin with a substantial stone residence, which stood at the southeast corner of York Road and Moreland Avenue until recent years. After Bond's death, the property was sold to William Miller of Philadelphia (Pd I 16, 189), and by Miller's estate to Jacob Tomkins in 1779 (Md 10, 309).<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> Her second husband was William Heaton, proprietor of the Red Lion Tavern at Willow Grove.

<sup>61</sup> Abraham Bond was a son of John and Sarah (Cadwallader) Bond, and a grandson of John and Mary (Cassel) Cadwallader of Horsham. His wife was his first cousin, Elizabeth Cadwallader. After his death, his business was continued by his former apprentice, Thomas Ackley, who also married a Cadwallader. The Ackley house is still standing on a high bank on the east side of York Road, some distance above Monument Avenue.

When Moses Vancourt left Hatboro, about the year 1758, his cooper-shop and tanyard were taken over by an unidentified purchaser, probably Joseph Longstreth of Warminster, who held the title in 1776. In that year he deeded the property to his younger brother Isaac (Md 6, 426), who had already paid the assessment for at least two years.<sup>62</sup> Isaac Longstreth is known to have lived in Hatboro as early as 1768, when he obtained title to the present Wunderle house (Md 3, 324). It remained his residence until 1787, when he moved to Chester county. The property had previously been occupied by John Bond, a brother of Abraham and a cooper by trade, who may have had charge of the cooper-shop after its sale by Vancourt.<sup>63</sup>

Isaac Longstreth was known as a tanner throughout his residence in Hatboro, and the cooper-shop, during his ownership, is believed to have been managed by one William Wilson, a son-in-law of Isaac Bellew. Young Longstreth was one of the first citizens of the village to espouse the American cause at the outbreak of the Revolution, and was elected Captain of the first local company of Associators, recruited during the

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<sup>62</sup> In 1774 he was assessed for 9 acres, labeled "tanyard" (Penna. Arch., Third Ser., XIV, 374-380).

<sup>63</sup> The intermediate ownership of this lot (lot #13) provides the background for an interesting episode, brought out in the minutes of the Union Library Company. It had been sold by John Harrison's estate to Bartholomew Longstreth, and after his death had been inherited by his children as tenants-in-common. Several of the heirs sold their undivided shares from time to time, until the controlling interest was obtained by John Bond, who took possession. In 1761, Bond sold his equity to David Rees, who led the Directors of the Library Company to believe that he wished to present the property to the Company, of which he was then the Secretary. But when a meeting was called to accept the gift, Rees explained that he had offered only to turn it over for the price he had paid, which he considered a great bargain. The Directors, however, felt that he had made a bad bargain, and declined the offer. Thereupon, Rees resigned as Secretary. Two years later, his share of stock was inherited by Margaret Rees, who demanded—and was granted—library privileges, although women were not at that time admitted as members.

summer of 1775.<sup>64</sup> In the winter of 1776-7, he and his men took part in the campaign about Trenton and Princeton.

When he moved to his new home in Chester county, Isaac returned the cooper-shop and eight acres of surrounding land to his brother Joseph (Md 6, 426), and sold the tanyard to Abraham Duffield (Md 6, 115), the owner of the adjoining tavern property. His own residence (lot #13) was sold at the same time to Martha Todd (Md 3, 324), the widow of William Todd, who, until his recent death, had been in actual operation of the tannery, and had also had a small store on the York Road frontage of the tanyard property. Isaac had at one time also owned the small lot at the northeast corner of York and Byberry roads (lot #6), but he had sold it in 1776 to Jacob Tomkins (Md 10, 430).<sup>65</sup>

John Jones has already been mentioned as the owner of 153 acres on the southeast side of Warminster Road, which he purchased from Jacob Chamberlin in 1736 (Pd I 8, 431). His family residence, now owned by Richard Schweder, stands at the end of Montgomery Avenue on a little hillock above a spring which in olden times was known as "Ten Pound Spring." During his lifetime, John Jones acquired other property in the neighborhood: 25 acres of the Nicholas Gilbert tract (lot #22) were inherited by his wife Mary, Gilbert's only daughter, and an adjoining lot of the same size (lot #21) was bought from her brother Peter; at a later date, a few acres of Joseph Gilbert's land (lot #26) were bought and

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<sup>64</sup> Penna. Arch., Eighth Ser., VIII, 7570. Local evidence that the Moreland company was in service at this time is inadvertently provided by the minutes of the Library Company, which relate that in the fall of 1776 a library room was offered in the former Dr. Crosley house and Isaac Longstreth, who lived nearby, was directed to provide a lock for the door. The minutes of a meeting held the following March note that the lock had not been procured, and explain that Longstreth "had been away from home most of the time (since the previous meeting)."

<sup>65</sup> It was probably a part of the property bought from his brother Joseph. The owners of this lot between 1739 (Charles Haftee) and 1776 are unknown.

afterward sold to John Gilbert (Md 40, 84). Jones also owned 10 acres on the east side of York Road (lot #15) in 1760 (Pd H 11, 451), and bought about half of the Richard Marple estate after its division among the Marple heirs (Pd I 6, 524).

He was also instrumental in opening the first school in the community by dedicating a portion of his Byberry Road frontage as a school-lot. This was a small lot 30 by 115 feet on the northeast side of the road about 45 rods below Warminster Road. A small stone school-house was then built, which served the neighborhood until Loller Academy was founded. In 1813, the old house and lot were sold by a committee appointed by act of General Assembly. Jones' deed to the trustees of the school was dated March 15, 1748 (Md 30, 393), but the ground had probably been dedicated several years previously, when the Jones children were of primary school age. If the tradition that Joshua Potts was the first teacher is to be believed, the school was probably opened shortly after 1740.<sup>66</sup>

When John Jones died in the fall of 1761, he directed his executors (Pw M, 230) to sell the home plantation, to confirm the 50 acres of the Nicholas Gilbert tract to his son Jonathan and the  $28\frac{3}{4}$  acres of the old Richard Marple plantation directly across Warminster Road from his house to his son Jacob. The latter sold his land a few years afterward to Jacob Tomkins (Pd I 6, 524), and Jonathan's 50 acres went to Samuel Shoemaker in 1782 (Pd D 6, 123). The home plantation was sold to Andrew Van Buskirk (Pd I 8, 433) who later attained some prominence in the community and was at one time an officer of the local company of State Militia.

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<sup>66</sup> William Wright was schoolmaster for several years after the Revolution, David Webster in 1795, and Hiram McNeill from 1796 until after 1800. John Jones no doubt realized the value of an education, for he was unable to write his own name. On one occasion he witnessed a deed of the Erwin family which was not recorded until many years after his death. His son John then appeared in his stead, and the Recorder accepted his statement that the X on the deed resembled his father's usual signature.

His son Mahlon inherited the greater part of the land in 1798, and sold it to Ezra Walmsley in 1836 (Md 52, 439).

William Folwell had been a resident of Bucks county prior to 1762, when he purchased 197 acres of the Joshua Potts estate (Pd I 10, 247), lying west of York Road and between Horsham and Mill roads. Two of his sons married daughters of Isaac Bellew, and both distinguished themselves in the service of their country during the Revolution: John Folwell became Major of the 1st Battalion of Bucks County Militia, while his brother Joseph replaced Isaac Longstreth as Captain of the Upper Moreland Company of Philadelphia County Militia in 1777 and served until the end of the war.<sup>67</sup>

Captain Joseph Folwell inherited the home place after his father's death in 1776 (Pw Q, 305), and lived there until 1795, when he exchanged farms with his father-in-law Isaac Bellew. Some years later, he and his brother John moved to New York State and his local property was sold to John Shelmire (Md 17, 57). Isaac Bellew died in the farmhouse of the Restine estate in 1803, and the surrounding plantation was inherited by his son Nathaniel B. Boileau.<sup>68</sup>

Jacob Tomkins was a son of Robert and Lydia (Carrell) Tomkins of Warminster. After completing his training as a saddle-maker and marrying Elizabeth Thomas, daughter of Daniel and Susannah (Livezey) Thomas, he bought the present American Legion house from Joshua Potts in 1760 (Pd H 11, 451), and opened a saddle and harness shop in the building, which remained his home until he moved to Philadelphia in 1784.<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> Penna. Arch., Fifth Ser., V, 314 and Sixth Ser., I, 631 & 750; also III, 647.

<sup>68</sup> Nathaniel B. Boileau was Hatboro's most distinguished statesman of the post-Revolutionary period. Born in 1762 and educated at Princeton, he was a member of the State Legislature for 12 years, served three terms as Secretary of State from the year 1808, and was Democratic candidate for Governor in 1817.

<sup>69</sup> Tradition says that one of his daughters was the first resident of the village to discover the presence of British dragoons in the early dawn



Young Tomkins soon took a prominent place in the community, becoming an officer of the Union Library Company and of Horsham Meeting. Like his brother-in-law, Daniel Thomas, Jr., he was frequently chosen for the county grand jury until his aversion to war brought social ostracism and punitive taxation during the Revolution.

Like other prosperous citizens, he invested his savings in local real estate. His first venture was the purchase, in 1765, of 28 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres of the former Richard Marple estate from one of the heirs of John Jones (Pd I 6, 524). Four years later, he added the David Rees house and lot across the road from his home (lot #5) and 13 acres of meadow fronting York Road and Cemetery Avenue (lot #16). These two lots had belonged to the Rees estate and had been sold after David's death to Mathias Harvey, of Makefield township, Bucks county (Md 15, 383), who immediately procured a liquor license and opened the house as a public tavern, known for many years thereafter as "Harvey's Tavern." By 1767, Harvey was unable to meet his financial obligations and his creditors took over the property, installing one Asalph Wilson as tavern-keeper. Two years later it was bid in at Sheriff's sale by Jacob Tomkins (Md 15, 377).

During his lifetime, Dr. John Crosley had sold his holdings in the Mary Keach tract and the unimproved lot behind his house (lot #12) to David Rees (Pd H 11, 451). At his death in 1769, he still owned his home lot, the Crooked Billet, 36 acres on the west side of York Road (lots #17-19), and 29 acres of the former Richard Marple estate. His will (Pw O, 368) devised all this property to his son Charles, who had managed the Crooked Billet Tavern since 1763.

Charles Crosley immediately sold the home property to David Rees, Jr., leased the Crooked Billet to John Tomkins, and moved to the Northern Liberties. He died there without issue about the end of the year 1776, leaving a widow Sarah

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of May 1, 1778. She was in the garden behind the house, planting cucumber seeds (Gen. W. W. H. Davis, *The Battle of the Crooked Billet*, in Coll. of Bucks Co. Hist. Soc., II, 182).

(nee Corbet) who later married James Dungan of Bucks county. She and Mordecai Thomas were named executors of Crosley's estate (Pw Q, 389), with orders to sell his real property, all of which was taken by Jacob Tomkins (Pd I 6, 524; Md 10, 309; Md 48, 500).

By the beginning of the Revolutionary period, Jacob Tomkins and David Kennedy had thus become the owners of the greater part of the central section of the village, which still contained little more than a dozen houses, after half a century of settlement. The third important landowner was Mordecai Thomas, who had been given 90 acres of his father's estate in 1766 (Md 2, 608). This grant included parts of the old Lawrence Thompson and Isaac Tustin properties, extending back to the Horsham line, but having only a few rods of York Road frontage, about where Williams Lane now enters, then occupied by Mordecai Thomas' two-story, hip-roofed house and his blacksmith shop.

In 1782, Thomas increased his York Road holdings by buying the Crooked Billet and 25 acres on the west side of the road (lots #17 & 18) from Tomkins (Md 5, 356), who was already preparing for his removal to Philadelphia. Three years later, he purchased his brother Daniel's Moreland property: the mill and several adjoining lots, 31 acres on the east side of York Road below the Creek (part of lot #28), and about 50 acres on the east side of Horsham Road above the mill pond, part of it in Horsham Township.

In 1788, Thomas sold the two lots on the west side of York Road to Abel and Nathan Marple, who already owned the land between the line of Linden Avenue and the Horsham boundary.<sup>70</sup> There was only one house on these two lots at this

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<sup>70</sup> Abel Marple bought all of lot 17 and a strip 4.7 rods wide off the west side of lot #18 (Md 5, 356). The east half of this narrow strip is now West Moreland Avenue, which did not become a public road until 1831 (Montg. Court Docket VI, 404,430,515), although it had been used as a private lane by the Marple family for a great many years. At the same time, Nathan Marple bought lot #19 from Jacob Tomkins, who had obtained it from the executors of Charles Crosley (Md 48,500).

time, the very old stone building built by the Chamberlin family on about the site of Smith's Garage. A few years later, the Marples divided their purchase into smaller lots and thus began the development of the upper end of the village.<sup>71</sup>

In 1789, Mordecai Thomas sold the Crooked Billet house and lot to James Simpson (Md 6, 115), a cooper from Bucks county, who then bought the cooper-shop and two acres from Joseph Longstreth (Md 6, 426), and continued the business begun nearly 50 years before by Moses Vancourt. In 1793, Mordecai deeded all his land on the west side of York Road, now totaling 141 acres, to his oldest son John (Md 8, 371), and moved to the residence opposite the mill, where he died in the year 1816 (Mw 4, 193). Sixteen years before, he had sold the York Road frontage opposite his house (on lot #28) to Richard Hopkins (Md 13, 178), and his heirs conveyed the remaining 22 acres to Jonathan Lloyd (Md 35, 36).

The year he left Hatboro, Jacob Tomkins sold Harvey's Tavern and the 13½ acres of meadowland fronting York Road and Cemetery Avenue (lot #16) to Abraham Duffield, formerly of Lower Dublin, who obtained a liquor license and re-opened the tavern. Duffield also bought the adjoining tanyard property, which for some years had been managed by William Todd. After the latter's death in 1788, the yard was taken over by William Magill, who bought the Wunderle house from the heirs of Martha Todd in 1803 (Md 17, 476). In the meantime, Duffield sold the tavern to David Kennedy (Md 15, 390), and became a miller in another part of the township.

After Jacob Tomkins' departure, the present Legion house was occupied by his son-in-law Nicholas Austin, who had a

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<sup>71</sup> By 1801 a house had been built on the northwest corner of York Road and Moreland Avenue, and the one-acre lot on which it stood was sold to Joseph Cadwallader, a stone-mason formerly of Horsham (Md 14, 342). Five years later, it was bought by Thomas Conrad (Md 22, 326) and converted into a general store which supplied the upper end of the town for a great many years. From 1812 (Md 28, 515) to 1832, it was kept by James Hawkins, who then sold out to the firm of Reading and Engard (Md 54, 231). Hiram Reading, the active member of the firm, was Hatboro's best-known merchant during his lifetime.

shop there, while another son-in-law, Joseph Naylor, took charge of the 64 acres of the old Richard Marple estate and lived in the former Abraham Bond house, where he occasionally kept store. In 1796, however, Jacob Tomkins conveyed the Bond house and 64 acres to his only surviving son Isaac (Md 10, 309), who immediately deeded 14 acres at the corner of Byberry and Warminster roads to Austin (Md 10, 311), and sold the Bond house and the remaining land to James Simpson (Md 9, 55). Austin then moved to his own property, but sold it shortly afterward and went to Buckingham township (Md 15, 466). Isaac Tomkins then took possession of the Legion house and married Anna Coughlin, the daughter of the contemporary keeper of Harvey's Tavern.

Three years later, Simpson sold his remaining 51 acres to John Conrad, an innkeeper of the Northern Liberties, who opened a tavern in the Bond house at the southeast corner of York Road and Moreland Avenue. Conrad died a few years later and the tavern was taken over by Joseph Carr (or Kerr), who bought the property from Conrad's executors in 1804. He sold it almost immediately, however, to Joseph Croasdale (Md 19, 68), a son-in-law of John Gilbert, and bought Harvey's Tavern from one of the heirs of David Kennedy (Md 20, 22-25). Croasdale opened East Moreland Avenue through his property in 1808,<sup>72</sup> and divided the old Richard Marple tract into town lots.

After Joseph Longstreth bought back the cooper-shop and eight acres of land (lot #9) from his brother Isaac, he sold the shop itself and two acres to James Simpson, as has already been explained. Another acre, with the old Vancourt dwelling, was sold to Henry Shefer (Md 6, 494), a shoemaker whose shop stood on the north side of Byberry Road about ten rods from York Road. The remainder of the eight-acre lot was then sold to Dr. Peter Yarnell (Md 6, 516-520), who also acquired the corner lot (lot #6) from Jacob Tomkins.

Dr. Peter Yarnell shared the village medical practice during the last decade of the XVIIIth Century with Dr. William

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<sup>72</sup> Montg. Court Docket IV, 137.

Bachelor. Bachelor lived on the west side of York Road above Monument Avenue, while Yarnell's office was in the little stone building at the corner of York and Byberry roads which was taken down a few years ago to make way for a gas station after serving as headquarters for a succession of Hatboro physicians for well over a century.

Dr. Yarnell had had an interesting career. He was a member of Byberry Meeting and had vigorously supported the American cause when the Revolutionary War came on, to the serious annoyance of his elders in the Meeting. Having gained some knowledge of medicine, he soon enlisted as surgeon's mate in Colonel Lambert Cadwalader's Third Pennsylvania Battalion, and was captured with his command at Fort Washington on the Hudson in November, 1776. Later he either escaped or was set free, and joined the crew of the privateer Delaware.<sup>73</sup>

He lived in York county for several years after the war, but in 1791 he moved to Hatboro and divided his time between his medical practice and numerous journeys as a Friends' traveling minister. In 1796 he moved to Byberry township, where he died two years later. His Hatboro property was then tenanted first by Abraham Duffield and later by Joseph Naylor, and the dwelling was used as a store. In 1801 it was sold by Yarnell's executors to John Thomas, in whose family it remained until 1846 (Md 68, 250).

James Simpson's health failed a few years after he moved to Hatboro, and in 1799 he closed out his local realty by selling the Crooked Billet lot and the cooper-shop to Thomas Hallowell, of Horsham (Md 12, 334). Five years later, Hallowell conveyed the present H. K. Maurer property to Joshua Richardson and John Paxson (Md 29, 359), carriage builders, who advertised in 1807 that their establishment comprised "a two-story stone coach-shop, thirty by twenty feet, a blacksmith shop, thirty by eighteen feet, and a harness-making shop, thirty six by sixteen feet, with other buildings essential

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<sup>73</sup> Penna. Arch., Second Ser., II, 125 & 132.

to the business."<sup>74</sup> On the same day, Hallowell sold the remainder of the Crooked Billet lot to John Thomas (Md 25, 608). The old tavern and the ground around it were then bought by the Watson family, who are still in possession.

While these many changes were taking place in the upper end of the town, the lower end between Byberry Road and the Creek was being consolidated under the ownership of David Kennedy, Esq., a wealthy Philadelphian with landed interests in several sections of the State, and for many years Secretary of the Land Office of the Commonwealth.<sup>75</sup> His initial purchase, already noted on a previous page, was made on January 30, 1775 (Md 27, 404) from David Rees, Jr., the residual legatee of the Loofbourrow-Rees family. It included the Crosley home lot and the ten acres of unimproved land behind it (lot #12), 125 acres of adjoining land in the upper end of the old Mary Keach tract, and possibly a second ten-acre lot on the east side of York Road,<sup>76</sup> a total of some 140 or 150 acres.

In 1784, Kennedy added two lots on the west side of York Road (lots #2 and #3), which had belonged to William Hancock until 1761, and were then sold to Thomas Dungan, of Warminster (Pd I 15, 384). They next came into the possession of Derick Tyson, of Upper Dublin, whose executors sold them to John Wood, of Philadelphia in 1776; Wood transferred title to Kennedy eight years later (Md 15, 376). At about the same time, Kennedy got possession of the greater part of an adjoining lot (lot #4) under circumstances which cannot now be determined.<sup>77</sup> In 1786, he bought Harvey's

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<sup>74</sup> Wm. J. Buck in Bean's *History of Montgomery County*, Chap. XLIV, p. 723.

<sup>75</sup> Col. Rec. of Penna., XII, 689, & XVI, 350.

<sup>76</sup> Lot #15. This lot had been bought by Margaret Loofbourrow about 1741. Unless there is an error in Pd H 11, 451, it was owned in 1760 by John Jones. Its ownership during the next 20 years is obscure. Cf. foot-note #44.

<sup>77</sup> Cf. foot-note #42.

Tavern and the two small lots which went with it, as well as 13½ acres (lot #16) on the east side of the road along Cemetery Avenue (Md 15, 390), and the next year added the ten-acre lot along Byberry Road (lot #11), which Elizabeth Walton had owned since 1742 (Md 15, 381).

These several purchases put Kennedy in possession of both sides of York Road in the lower section of the town, with the exception of the Legion and Wunderle houses (lots #13 & 14), and all the land to the southeastward far beyond the present Borough limits. The main block of farmland, with the Crosley house, was then rented to a succession of tenants, of whom the following are known: Alexander Means (1779), Edward Kennedy (1780-86), Abraham Duffield (1788-9), William Carr (1791-5), Jonathan Heaton (1796, 1798, 1801), Joseph Fitzwater (1799, 1800), Robert Dunlap (1802-3). Harvey's Tavern was leased to a succession of tavern-keepers after its purchase. The former William Hancock store (on lot #8) was kept by Jacob Linton in 1785-6, and was then rented to a widow named Margaret Leech until the year 1800, when the "Widow Kennedy," presumably David Kennedy's widow, took over and remained until the estate was settled. The former Walton house and lot (lot #11) were rented to a shoemaker named Peter Sauerman from 1791 to 1798.<sup>78</sup>

David Kennedy's estate was settled in 1804: Harvey's Tavern was given outright to a son Francis, and was sold immediately to Joseph Carr (Md 20, 22-25); another son, Robert, was made trustee of the remaining property for other heirs. He sold the Crosley house and 136 acres of land to the southeastward to Thomas B. Montagne and Abel Marple in 1811 (Md 27, 404), and the remaining York Road frontage to Edmund J. Hollingshead of Philadelphia, nine years later

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<sup>78</sup> Peter Sauerman was a private in the Pennsylvania Line and spent the winter of 1777-1778 with his command at Valley Forge. In 1786, he was Sergeant Major of the Second Battalion of Montgomery County Militia. He had a shoe-repair shop in Hatboro from 1780 to 1798, but later went West and died in Dearborn county, Indiana, in 1819, aged 82 years (Penna. Arch., Third Ser., XXIII, 595).

(Md 38, 416). The 136 acres then passed through a number of hands, and the greater part of the tract was bought up in 1854 by Daniel Rorer of Cheltenham (Md 90, 360). The buildings and a part of the ground are now owned by the Philip Wunderle estate.

Unfortunately, a large proportion of the persons mentioned in the foregoing pages have left few records of their lives beyond their transactions in the local real estate market, and little can be said of their personal characteristics and other interests, while numerous renters and younger members of families cannot now be identified. For this reason, it seems appropriate to add to this narrative a more connected account of two important factors in the intellectual or social life of the community during the XVIIIth Century.

The more important of these influences was undoubtedly that of the Union Library Company, organized in 1755 and mentioned frequently in preceding pages. The founding of a semi-public collection of contemporary literature at that early date is not only evidence of an exceptional and determined thirst for knowledge on the part of the leaders of the pioneer community, but is of more than local historical interest, since the Company has the second oldest library in the State with an independent and continuous existence from its inception to the present date.<sup>79</sup> It is true that many of the founders and later shareholders lived at some distance from Hatboro, but the books have always been housed in or near the town, and the Library may justly be considered a local institution.

Joshua Potts was one of four men who held a preliminary meeting on July 19, 1775, and when the Company was formally organized at the Crooked Billet Tavern a few days later, Samuel Erwin was chosen one of the three directors, William Loofbourrow, a son of Nathaniel, was made secretary, and

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<sup>79</sup> Five subscription libraries had been opened in and about Philadelphia before 1755, but four of them were later absorbed by the Library Company of Philadelphia, the oldest of all Pennsylvania libraries. Cf. *Colonial Libraries of Pennsylvania* by E. V. Lamberton in *Penna. Mag. of Hist. & Biog.*, Vol. XLII (1918), pp. 193-234.



Daniel Thomas, Sr. became treasurer. Joshua Potts was secretary from 1756 to 1758, and David Rees from 1759 to 1761. Jacob Tomkins took Rees' place until 1772, and was then treasurer until he moved to the city. Daniel Thomas, Jr., was treasurer in 1770-72, and secretary for the next four years. Other officers already mentioned in these pages were William Folwell, Mordecai Thomas, and Isaac Longstreth.

The Library's first books were 59 volumes ordered from London in the fall of 1755 and delivered on shipboard in Philadelphia the following August. Soon afterward it became possible to obtain books locally, and the collection increased so rapidly by purchase and gift that between the years 1762 and 1774, 211 different titles were lent by the Company to its members.<sup>80</sup> The Company languished during the Revolution, but shortly afterward was given a great stimulus by Colonel Robert Loller<sup>81</sup> and other new members, and by 1795 owned a library of 1,000 volumes.

The books were first housed by Joshua Potts in the present Legion building, but were transferred to David Rees' residence across the street in 1759. Two years later, they were back in their former quarters in charge of Jacob Tomkins, the new owner. In 1772, they were taken by Daniel Thomas, Jr. to his house on Horsham Road opposite the mill, where they remained until 1777. In the fall of 1776, a room in the former Crosley residence was offered the Company, but before this offer could be accepted, Hatboro found itself involved in the fierce guerilla raids and counter-raids which devastated that section of the county during the British occupation of Philadelphia, and the books were hurried to the isolated farmhouse

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<sup>80</sup> Fifty-eight of these volumes are still on the Library's shelves. Cf. *A Colonial Reading List* by Chester T. Hollenbeck, A.M. (Columbia), in Penna. Mag. of Hist. & Biog., Vol. LVI (1932), pp. 289-340.

<sup>81</sup> Although Colonel (later Judge) Loller did not move to Hatboro from his Horsham farm until 1797, he had been a member of the Library Company since the end of the War. His Hatboro property (lot #29), later occupied by Loller Academy, had been sold by the executors of Joshua Potts to John Bond in 1762 (Pd I 10, 247).

of Samuel Erwin, where they remained until the early months of 1780. They were then taken to the home of Benjamin Bond, on the York Road north of the village, and next to the house of William Wilson, on the north side of Byberry Road, who kept them until the middle of the year 1782. Their next custodian, Nicholas Austin, proved remiss in his duties, and a number of the books were either lost or damaged. In 1785, the remaining volumes were taken back to Harvey's Tavern, where they remained in charge of Abraham Duffield and succeeding tavern-keepers for 40 years. In 1825, they were removed to the back room of a house which had just been built on the Company's own lot (part of lot #4), which it had purchased from Joseph Carr in 1806 (Md 24, 41). There they remained until the present Library building was erected in 1849 from the proceeds of a legacy left the Company by Nathan Holt of Horsham.

The other local institution worthy of special mention was the succession of village taverns, which undoubtedly touched the daily life of the man in the street more nearly than the heavy intellectual fare served by the Union Library. In those days, the use of alcoholic stimulants was well-nigh universal, and the meanest ordinary included liquor in its daily menu. The neighborhood tavern thus became the center of community life, not only for the quenching of a perennial thirst, but for social and business engagements and even the deliberations of local governing bodies.

The Crooked Billet was unquestionably Hatboro's first and most popular tavern under the management of Nathaniel Loofbourrow and his wife Margaret, later Margaret Rees. Indeed, it was so well and favorably known that the village itself was colloquially named "the Billet" or "the Crooked Billet" for the better part of a century. After Margaret Rees gave it up in 1762, the license was renewed by Charles Crosley, the son of the owner, and was continued in his name until his father's death in 1769. In the meantime, the former Rees residence had been licensed by Mathias Harvey in 1763, and had remained a tavern until it was sold by the Sheriff six years later.

The status of these two houses during the next decade is far from clear. John Tomkins, a brother of Jacob, obtained a liquor license for the first time in 1770, and it seems certain that he succeeded Charles Crosley in the management of the Crooked Billet. The available lists of tavern-keepers<sup>82</sup> seem to indicate that he remained at this stand for a number of years, but that Harvey's Tavern was not licensed again until after the Revolution. Tomkins later moved his establishment to his first wife's property at the southwest corner of York and County Line roads (lot #23), but the date of this change is uncertain. General Davis, the eminent Bucks county historian, believed that Tomkins' Tavern was in the latter location on May 1, 1778, when it served as British headquarters during the Battle of the Billet,<sup>83</sup> but if this is true the removal had taken place only a short time before.

The following evidence leads to this conclusion: (1) Abigail (Gilbert) Tomkins had leased her 25 acres to one Jacob Rush since Peter Gilbert's death, and he was still her tenant in 1776<sup>84</sup>; (2) Peter Warner, one of General Washington's couriers, was stationed at the Billet Tavern in the winter of 1776-77<sup>85</sup>; (3) on August 10, 1777, Washington entertained the Continental staff at a dinner in the Tavern, and his receipt for £20, the cost of the meal, was signed by John Tomkins.<sup>86</sup> On the other hand, Rush's name is not found on the Moreland

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<sup>82</sup> The extant lists begin with the year 1762 and are missing for 1776-1780. Names of pre-Revolutionary taverners are found in the *Secretary's Office Ledger*, volumes A & B, and for the years 1781-84 in the contemporary docket of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, all in the MSS Division of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The lists from 1784 are in the dockets of the Montgomery County Courts.

<sup>83</sup> Gen. W. W. H. Davis, *History of Bucks County*, second edition (1905), 199.

<sup>84</sup> Buck's *History of Montgomery County*, Chap. LXIV, p. 983.

<sup>85</sup> Col. Rec. of Penna., XI, 74.

<sup>86</sup> This statement is made on the authority of Capt. R. C. Holcomb (MC), USN, in his publication, *The Old York Road* (Coll. of Bucks Co. Hist. Soc., V, 710). Tomkins obviously kept a superior establishment, for he paid large taxes on liquor consumed, and was one of the few local tavern-keepers who paid the special tax levied on silver plate.

tax list for 1779, while Tomkins' assessment seems adequate to cover the 25 acres.<sup>87</sup>

Tomkins apparently did not take possession of Abigail's property until after her death, which occurred during these years, though the exact date has unfortunately not been found. Likewise unknown is the date of Jacob Tomkins' purchase of the Crooked Billet from the estate of Charles Crosley. If found, this date might determine the approximate time of removal, for Jacob Tomkins was a very devout man, thoroughly grounded in the Quaker testimony against spirituous liquors; he had evidently closed Harvey's Tavern as soon as it came into his possession, and it is more than likely that he would have denied the use of the Crooked Billet for tavern purposes even to his own brother.

Whatever the exact date and cause of John Tomkins removal, it seems certain that Hatboro supported but one tavern during most of the Revolutionary period, and may have had none at all during the final years.<sup>88</sup> Tomkins' Tavern prospered until its owner's death in 1787, and was then inherited by his second wife Elizabeth. She soon married Harman Yerkes, and the license was continued in his name until 1791. Thereafter he was assessed as a farmer until his death about 1804, while Elizabeth continued to exercise her life-right in the property for another 15 years.

There is no evidence that the Crooked Billet was ever used for tavern purposes after its purchase by Jacob Tomkins. Harvey's Tavern was reopened in 1785 by Abraham Duffield, its new owner, and remained the most important hotel in the town until it was torn down, a few years ago. Duffield held the license until 1789, Enoch Green in 1790, Thomas Hough from 1791 to 1793, and Samuel Coughlin for the next 11 years. In

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<sup>87</sup> Penna. Arch., Third Ser., XIV, 640-646.

<sup>88</sup> A tavern license was held for the year 1781, and perhaps previous years, by Humphrey Waterman, normally a resident of Hatboro and assessed there for personal property in 1779 and again in 1782. But he was the husband of Abigail (Gilbert) Tomkins' daughter, Hannah, and had probably been placed in charge of a second tavern which John Tomkins owned at Davis Grove in Hørsham township.

1804 both the license and the title to the property were taken over by Joseph Carr and were transferred to John J. Marple five years later (Md 27, 789). Marple's ownership continued until 1825, when Robert Radcliff became the proprietor. He was succeeded in 1861 by John B. Jones, who sold out to Harry Wilson 30 years later.

However, the upper end of the village did not long remain without a tavern after the Crooked Billet closed its doors. As already noted, the former Abraham Bond house at the southeast corner of York Road and Moreland Avenue was opened as a licensed inn by John Conrad in 1799; with certain interruptions, it remained a public house from that date until a comparatively few years ago. After Conrad died and Joseph Carr moved to Harvey's, the building was used for other purposes until 1809, when Carr again took possession. In 1816, he sold out to Charles Johnson (Md 33, 71), who was the proprietor in 1816-17 and again in 1821-23, Daniel Shelmire taking over during the intervening three years. The license then lapsed, but was later renewed by George W. Vandergrift, who bought the property in 1849 (Md 74, 675) and named it "Vandergrift's Hotel." Before that time it had commonly been called the "Upper Tavern" to distinguish it from the "Lower Tavern," as Harvey's came to be known. After the advent of the railway in 1872, Vandergrift's was renamed the "Rail Road House."

Land tenure in Hatboro and vicinity has been traced in the foregoing pages in as great detail as available records and the ability of the writer permit. Because of the rapid subdivision of lands in the long period of prosperity which followed the Revolution, it would hardly be possible to follow the later development of the community in connected and readable form. Fortunately, investors at last realized the importance of recording their indentures in the county archives, and briefs of title from 1800 to the present can be obtained without great difficulty. If this article is of assistance in identifying XVIIIth Century landowners, with an occasional glimpse into their mode of living, it will have served its purpose.

## The Pilgrimage to the Old Trappe Church Saturday, September 19th, 1942

FRANKLIN A. STICKLER, *Chairman*

"In the heat of a day in September  
We came to the old church door,  
We bared our heads, I remember,  
On the steps that the moss covered o'er."

These lines written by Montgomery County's poet, the late Isaac R. Pennypacker, with the exception of the moss-covered steps, might have been written for the pilgrimage of the members and friends of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, to the historic Old Trappe Church, Trappe, Pa., on Saturday afternoon, September 19th, 1942. With the exception of the aftermath of a heated spell during the week, which the fresh breezes through the open doors and windows of the ancient structure soon dissipated, the weather man treated us kindly. On hand to meet and greet the arriving historians, was Miss Alma Fegley, the talented daughter of Pastor W. O. Fegley, who made a most gracious hostess and efficient guide through the old but well-preserved building, erected 199 years ago, by the Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the Patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America.

The Muhlenberg Bi-centenary Program, arranged for the meeting, was to pay tribute and honor to Pastor Muhlenberg and his three talented sons, Peter, Frederick Augustus, and Henry Ernest, Montgomery County's most distinguished family group, along with the celebration of Dr. Muhlenberg's arrival in America in September, 1742.

Dr. Muhlenberg served the Trappe congregation for 45 years, and this lengthy pastorate is almost equalled by the present pastor, Dr. William O. Fegley, who has been shepherd of the flock for 44 years.

Pastor Fegley was detained by officiating at a funeral, but returned in time to give a graphic recital of the life and services of his predecessor of two hundred years ago; also related many noted incidents connected with the building of the old church, its pioneer founders, primitive furnishings of the original building, with its stone floor and no heating facilities; the old communion vessels of 1748 were on display, also the old collection bags, for receiving the congregation's offerings on the Lord's Day, fastened to long handles for passing through the pews from the aisles.

From this old church's uplifting influence, said Dr. Fegley, there has for two centuries flowed a steady stream of influences for the betterment of the community it serves. It was in this original source of Lutheranism in America, that the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, the oldest governing Lutheran body in America, had its conception and organization 195 years ago, under the inspiring leadership and guidance of Dr. Muhlenberg. This was probably his outstanding accomplishment in bringing order out of the chaotic condition of the Lutheran Church in America at that time.

The closing words of the inscription on his memorial stone in the adjoining God's Acre, are prophetic: "Who and what he was future ages will know without a stone." The outstanding Bi-centenary Muhlenberg celebration throughout the State and Nation this year fully verifies that prophecy.

Addresses by Hon. Harold G. Knight, President Judge of Montgomery County Courts, on "Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg—Preacher, Statesman, Jurist"; and Franklin A. Stickler, Chairman, on "General Peter Muhlenberg—Warrior-Pastor," are included as part of this brief sketch of a historic pilgrimage.

The chairman also called attention to the third son's activity; Henry Ernest Muhlenberg remained in the Lutheran Ministry all of his life, being pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, for thirty-five years; was one of the founders of Franklin and Marshall College, and served as its first president. He also is known as one of the outstanding American botanists, and became a member of

scientific societies of Sweden and Germany, his labors in this field bringing him international fame and praise.

Other individual contributions to the day's program were the presiding at the organ of Mrs. B. F. Brownback, organist of Augustus Church, Eugene Bechtel's sounding of the "Reveille"; and placing of a floral wreath on the tomb of General Peter Muhlenberg by Jacob E. Cope, president of the Valley Forge Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution.

At a short business meeting, presided over by the first vice-president, S. Cameron Corson, three new members were elected; and tribute to the memory of Chester Cook, deceased president, was paid by vice-president S. Cameron Corson, and chairman of the Board of Trustees, Franklin A. Stickler. A rising vote of thanks to Pastor Fegley and the officers of Augustus Church, and the Benediction by Pastor Fegley closed the meeting.

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## "The Lutheran Church's Outstanding Contribution to the Moral and Spiritual Life of America"

By FRANKLIN A. STICKLER

*Muhlenberg Bi-Centenary Program—Trappe Church,  
September 19, 1942*

We are so accustomed to think of our United States of America as an English-speaking nation that we fail to realize that our one hundred and thirty million population is made up of continued waves of immigration, mostly voluntary, except the large number of African slaves brought to these shores by inhuman traders for sale to the highest bidders; also the limited number of the original inhabitants, the various tribes of Indians.



The first modern settlers along the comparatively narrow strip occupied by them along the Atlantic Seaboard, were: the French in Canada or New France; the English in New England, Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia; the Dutch in New Amsterdam, the Swedes on the Delaware and the Spanish in Florida.

With the coming of William Penn to Pennsylvania, in 1682, came the English Quakers, followed shortly thereafter by thousands of German immigrants from the Palatinate region along the Rhine, seeking homes in the new world beyond the seas.

It was among these German immigrants, pioneer Lutheran settlers of eastern Pennsylvania, that Henry Melchior Muhlenberg was called to serve as a Minister of the Lutheran Church in 1742, by the congregations in Philadelphia, New Hanover and Trappe. His ministry, however, in addition to these local churches, was also a missionary-organizing and supervisory one that extended from New York to Georgia.

Muhlenberg was ably equipped for this task, speaking seven languages, and is known to have preached in at least four of them; viz., German, English, Dutch and Swedish. The early Swedish Lutheran congregations in Delaware and Pennsylvania, were, due to the lack of English Lutheran pastors at that time, eventually merged with the Episcopal Church of England. During the 19th and present centuries, however, wave after wave of immigrants from the Lutheran countries of Scandinavia and middle Europe settled in our great western farming sections.

These were followed by immigrants from practically all portions of the world to this Land of the Free; bringing with them new languages, new customs, religions and ways of life, that challenged the wisdom of the civil and religious leaders of the American Nation to devise the best means of fitting them into our American way of life.

Strangers in a strange land, often cut off from human fellowship on account of the language question, an object of suspicion to their neighbors and civil authorities for the same reason, they created a problem that could best be solved by

the help of the Christian Churches in their various communities.

Chief of the Protestant churches in the United States to cope with this situation has always been the Lutheran Church, which is the most internationally affiliated Protestant Church in America. It will probably surprise even some of the ministers of this denomination that the Lutheran Church at this time, through its various Synodical Bodies, conducts services in the United States in twenty-one languages, as follows: English, American Indian: Cree, American Indian: Apache, Chinese, Danish, Estonian, Assyrian, Finnish, German, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Latvian (Lettish), Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish, Wendish, Yiddish. Missions are also conducted for Cherokee and Winnebago Indians, and for the Eskimos in Alaska, using English usually. Throughout the world, I am advised by the National Lutheran Council statistician, the number approximates about fifty languages.

What this means, and the duty of the Lutheran Church in this connection, was very forcefully set forth by the late Theodore Roosevelt, while President of the United States, in an address delivered by him at the rededication of Luther Place Memorial Church, Washington, D. C., the Rev. J. G. Butler, pastor, on Sunday, January 29th, 1905, as follows:

"Dr. Butler: It is a great pleasure for me to be with you this morning and say a word of greeting on the occasion of the rededication of this church, coming as it does almost simultaneously with the entry of your pastor into his eightieth year.

"From the standpoint from which I am obliged so continually to look at matters, there is a peculiar function to be played by the great Lutheran Church in the United States of America. This is a Church which had its rise to power in, and until it emigrated to this side of the water, had always had its fullest development in the two great races of northern and northern-middle Europe—the German and the Scandinavian.

"The Lutheran Church came to this territory which is now the United States very shortly after the first permanent settle-

ments were made within our limits, for when the earliest settlers came to dwell around the mouth of the Delaware they brought the Lutheran worship with them, and so with the earliest German settlers who came to Pennsylvania and afterward to New York and the mountainous region in the western part of Virginia and the States south of it.

"From that day to this the history of the growth in population of this nation has consisted largely, in some respects mainly, of the arrival of successive waves of new comers to our shores, and the prime duty of those already in the land is to see that their own progress and development are shared by these new comers. It is a serious and dangerous thing for any man to tear loose from the soil, from the region in which he and his forbears have taken root and to be transplanted into a new land. He should receive all possible aid in that new land, and the aid can be tendered most effectively by those who can appeal to him on the ground of spiritual kinship.

"Therefore, the Lutheran Church can do most in helping upward and onward so many of the newcomers to our shores, and it seems to me that it should be, I am tempted to say, well-nigh the prime duty of this Church to see that the immigrant, especially the immigrant of Lutheran faith from the Old World, whether he come from Scandinavia or Germany, or whether he belonged to one of the Lutheran countries of Finland, or Hungary or Austria, may be not suffered to drift off with no friendly hand extended to him out of all church communion, away from all the influences that tend toward safeguarding and uplifting him, and that he will find ready at hand in this country those eager to bring him in fellowship with existing bodies.

"The Lutheran Church in this country is of very great power, numerically, and through the intelligence and thrift of its members, but it will grow steadily to even greater power. It is destined to be one of the two or three greatest and most important national churches in the United States; one of the two or three churches most distinctly AMERICAN, most distinctly among the forces that are to tell for making this great country even greater in the future.

"Therefore, a peculiar load of responsibility rests upon the members of this Church.

"It is an important thing for the people of this nation to remember their rights, but it is an even more important thing for them to remember their duties. In the last analysis, the work of the statesman and soldiers, the work of the public man, shall go for nothing if it is not based upon the spirit of Christianity working in the millions of homes throughout this country, so that there may be that social, that spiritual, that moral foundation without which no country can ever rise to permanent greatness.

"For material well-being, material prosperity, success in arts, in letters, great industrial triumphs, all of them and all of the structures raised thereon will be as evanescent as a dream if it does not rest on 'the righteousness that exalteth a nation.'"

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## Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg

### Preacher, Statesman, Jurist

Address by HON. HAROLD G. KNIGHT  
*President Judge of Montgomery County*

*Historical Society of Montgomery County Meeting at Trappe,  
September 19, 1942*

When the County of Montgomery was created by the Legislature in 1784, it was necessary to set up Courts in the new County. Under the then existing Law the Justices of the Peace were constituted the Judges of the County Courts. There were seven of these Justices in the territory comprising Montgomery County. Each Justice had jurisdiction over several Townships.

One of these Justices was Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, and it seems by common consent of the others, he acted as President Judge. The choice was a natural one, for the new

President Judge not only came from an illustrious family, as you have heard this afternoon, but was himself one of the well known men of Pennsylvania.

Born on New Year's Day, in the year 1750, right here in the village of Trappe, the second son of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Frederick Augustus spent the first ten years of his life in Trappe. At the early age of twelve, he was sent with his two brothers, to Germany, to be educated for the ministry. Returning when he was twenty years old, he was given a tryout, and then after passing an examination, was ordained as a Lutheran minister. His first charge was as assistant to his brother-in-law, Christopher Emmanuel Schulze, who was pastor at Tulpehocken. He travelled about from there, serving outlying congregations, and led the life of a country pastor of those days, spending much of his time in the saddle, going from one place to another, and often camping along the roadside, when night overtook him in some isolated place.

One incident related by him casts a revealing light on the crude life of our pioneer ancestors. He was invited to go to the home of one of his parishioners for dinner after service. When they sat down to the table, every one else began to eat immediately, but he was at a loss to know what to do. Then one of the family asked him if he had a knife. When he replied that he did not carry a knife, the family was astonished that a pastor would come to a meal so ill prepared. Finally the mother of the family found a small knife which she loaned him.

At the outbreak of the Revolution, Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg had charge of a congregation in New York City. When the British were threatening to take the City, his well-known and outspoken adherence to the American cause, made it necessary for him to remove with his family, to Trappe.

During the Revolution, Frederick A. Muhlenberg assisted his father in ministering to the congregations at Oley, New Goshenhoppen and Reading.

Influenced no doubt, by the example of his illustrious brother Peter, early in 1779 he decided to relinquish the ministry, and enter into public service. In that year, 1779,

he was elected by the Pennsylvania Assembly to fill a vacancy in the delegation from Pennsylvania in the Continental Congress. In the fall of the same year, he was elected by the people as one of the five delegates to the Congress.

In the following year, 1780, Frederick A. Muhlenberg was elected as a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly, and was chosen as Speaker of that body, an office he held for two sessions. He had also become a Justice of the Peace for Providence, Limerick and Skippack Townships.

So, when Frederick A. Muhlenberg, at the early age of thirty-four, became the first President Judge of the Montgomery County Courts, he was already a well-known figure in Pennsylvania. He had held important positions, and was well schooled in public office. Not only was he the President Judge of the Courts, but he was appointed by the Supreme Council of Pennsylvania, Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds for the new County.

The litigation in the Courts reflects the customs and ways of life of the people. On the Common Pleas or civil side of the new Courts of Montgomery County, the cases had to do with the land titles, boundary fences, and the simple business transactions of a rural population, largely engaged in farming.

In the Criminal Courts the defendants were charged with offenses forbidden by the Ten Commandments. Driving while under the influence of liquor; failure to stop at the scene of an accident; and violations of the Liquor Control Act, did not cause any trouble for Judge Muhlenberg and his associates.

The axiom "Charity begins at home" was also the law in those days, and the support of the poor was placed upon the Township where the pauper resided. Often disputes arose as to the legal residence of the applicant for public assistance.

The records disclose that at first sessions of the Common Pleas Court, but two cases came before the Judges, and those were both disputes between Townships over the legal residence of paupers.

Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg was head of the Montgomery County Courts, from October 19th, 1784, until July 23rd, 1785, when the Supreme Executive Council appointed

James Morris as President Judge, although he continued as one of the Judges of the Court until his election to Congress in 1788.

When a convention was called in 1787 to consider whether the new Constitution of the United States should be ratified by the State of Pennsylvania, Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg was elected a delegate, and chosen as its Presiding Officer. In this important position, he did much to secure the ratification of the proposed Constitution by Pennsylvania.

After the ratification of the Constitution Frederick A. Muhlenberg was elected one of the eight representatives from Pennsylvania, to the House of Representatives of the Congress provided for by the then new charter of Government. He became the first Speaker of the House, blazing a new trail for those that followed. Four times he was elected to Congress, and became Speaker of the House again in the third Congress. He held other public offices of trust and importance, among them Trustee of the University of Pennsylvania; Collector General of the Land Office of the Commonwealth, and President of the German Society of Pennsylvania.

Many able men have occupied the office of President Judge of Montgomery County, but it is no disparagement to these to say that none of them attained the national recognition, nor rendered such outstanding public service, as our first President Judge. Under the government that Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg helped to build and helped to organize, we have grown to be a rich and powerful nation. Under its concepts of personal liberty and the dignity and worth of the individual, we have attained the highest standard of living ever attained in this world among a like number of people. Under its broad, tolerant and liberal fundamental law, we have seen members of many races and creeds, working shoulder to shoulder, building up civilization. Now we see that civilization challenged as never before in our history. We see a group of ambitious, ruthless men, trying to stamp from the world these ideals of liberty and government for which Peter Muhlenberg fought, and Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg preached and helped to incorporate in our fundamental law.

We see all over the world, a vicious effort to supplant the concepts of justice of Muhlenberg's Court with the law of the jungle—"Kill or be Killed"—We see the ideal of Muhlenberg's Court "Justice for all" challenged by the doctrine of tyranny—"Might makes right."

I have an abiding faith that we still have the spirit of our forefathers; that we have not grown soft with easy living, and that we have manhood and hardihood to fight for the things we hold dear, and that we as a people, will be worthy of the memory of the Muhlenbergs.

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## General Peter Muhlenberg

FRANKLIN A. STICKLER

*Address at the Muhlenberg Bi-Centenary Meeting,  
Trappe, Pa., September 19, 1942*

"Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time."

These lines from Longfellow's "Psalm of Life" seem a most appropriate prelude to our Muhlenberg Bi-Centenary program this afternoon, as this imposing gathering of members and friends is "tenting on the old camp ground" to pay tribute and honor to those truly great men, whose lives of sacrificial service to their Church and Country have left indelible footprints on the sands of time. Footprints that should make men and women everywhere take new heart and hope when the new and better day again dawns over the world.

These pioneer heroes labored long, earnestly and faithfully, made many lonely, dangerous journeys through the wilderness trails in the Master's service, and we today enjoy the fruit of their labors.



It might be well for us in this modern day and age to ask ourselves if we are likewise willing to manifest a similar spirit of self sacrifice of our time, our talents and our earthly possessions, for God, for Home and for Native Land. God grant that none of us should fail when such a supreme test should be demanded of us.

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In the two hundred year old God's Acre, adjoining the Old Augustus Lutheran Church, at Trappe, Pennsylvania, in which we are meeting this afternoon, and immediately to the rear of the old church, we find a tablet reading:—

"SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG, BORN OCTOBER 1ST, A. D. 1746, DEPARTED THIS LIFE OCTOBER 1ST, 1807, AGED 61 YEARS. . . HE WAS BRAVE IN THE FIELD, FAITHFUL IN HIS CABINET, HONORABLE IN ALL HIS TRANSACTIONS, . . . A SINCERE FRIEND AND AN HONEST MAN."

This memorial tablet placed over the last resting place of General Peter Muhlenberg by his children, is a loving tribute of remembrance to a man whose name has been written high on the Scroll of Fame, as a minister of a militant Gospel of vital, living Christianity, in the stirring days leading up to the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence.

The oft-quoted story of his dramatic farewell to his flock in the Lutheran Church at Woodstock, Virginia, on a Sunday morning in January, 1776, closing his services with the ringing challenge that "There is a time for all things, a time to preach, and a time to fight, and now is the time to fight," has become a patriotic classic for every young hero-worshipper in America, also a much-used slogan in the halls of our National Capitol, and by political spell-binders throughout the nation.

The Pennsylvania poet, Thomas Buchanan Read, has so realistically pictured the scene in the Shenandoah Valley Church on that epoch-making Sunday so much better than any poor words of mine could, in his beautiful poetic lines, that I am quoting them in part:

"The pastor rose: the prayer was strong;  
 The Psalm was warrior David's song:  
 The text a few short words of might—  
 "The Lord of hosts shall arm the right."  
 He spoke of wrongs too long endured,  
 Of sacred rights to be secured;  
 Then from his patriot tongue of flame  
 The startling words of Freedom came.

The stirring sentences he spake  
 Compelled the heart to glow and quake,  
 And rising on his theme's broad wing,  
 And grasping in his nervous hand  
 The imaginary battle brand,  
 In face of death he dared to fling  
 Defiance to a tyrant King.

Even as he spoke, his frame renewed  
 In eloquence of attitude,  
 Rose, as it seemed, a shoulder higher,  
 Then swept his kindling glance of fire  
 From startled pew to breathless choir,  
 When suddenly his mantle wide,  
 His hands impatient flung aside,  
 And, lo! he met their wondering eyes  
 Complete in all a warrior's guise.

A moment there was awful pause,—  
 When Berkeley cried, "Cease, traitor! cease!  
 God's temple is the house of peace!"  
 The other shouted, "Nay, not so,  
 When God is with our righteous cause:  
 His holiest places then are ours,  
 His temples are our forts and towers  
 That frown upon the tyrant foe;  
 In this the dawn of freedom's day  
 There is a time to fight and pray!"

And now before the open door—  
 The warrior priest had ordered so—  
 The enlisting trumpet's sudden roar  
 Rang out through the chapel, o'er and o'er,  
 Its long reverberating blow,  
 So loud and clear, it seemed the ear  
 Of dusty death must wake and hear.

And the startling drum and fife  
Fired the living with fiercer life;  
While overhead with wild increase,  
Forgetting its ancient toll of peace

The great bell swung as ne'er before:  
It seemed as it would never cease,  
And every word its ardor flung  
From off its jubilant iron tongue  
Was, "War! War! War!"

"Who dares"—this was the patriot's cry  
As striding from the desk he came—  
"Come out with me in Freedom's name,  
For her to live, for her to die?"  
A hundred hands flung up reply,  
A hundred voices answered "I!"

History fails to record the hymns the warrior pastor used in this, his final and historic service, but I should like to believe that one was the soul stirring lines written by Justus Falckner in 1697, just prior to his being ordained as a minister in the Lutheran Church, this being the first ordination of any denomination in America:

"Rise, ye children of salvation,  
All who cleave to Christ the Head!  
Wake, arise, O mighty nation,  
Ere the foe on Zion tread:  
He draws nigh, and would defy  
All the hosts of God Most High."

Serving a Lutheran congregation in the Province of Virginia, Muhlenberg also had the unique honor of being ordained first in the Lutheran Church, then, before accepting the call to the Woodstock Parish, being again ordained in London by the Church of England. This second ordination was made in order that under the Virginia laws of that time his ministerial acts of marriages had a legal status, also enabled him to collect tithes for his support. He however remained a lifelong active member of the Lutheran Church, being one of the founders of St. John's English Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1806.

In his Virginia parish Muhlenberg met George Washington, surveyor, planter and statesman, and having much in common in their personal inclinations, they became life-long friends. Muhlenberg had in December, 1775, been appointed a Colonel of the Eighth Regiment, and after drilling the men in his regiment till May, 1776, was ordered to proceed to the relief of General Lee at Charleston, S. C. General Lee said of Muhlenberg's troops at this time that "they were the most complete of all the Virginia regiments, the best armed, best clothed, and best equipped for immediate service. His soldiers were alert, zealous and spirited."

In recognition of his valuable and efficient services Colonel Muhlenberg was elevated to the rank of Brigadier General on February 21, 1777, and put in command of the Virginia Line, and ordered to join Washington in New Jersey. During the dreary six months of cold, hunger and disease of the Valley Forge Encampment, December 19th, 1777, to June 19th, 1778, Muhlenberg's troops guarded the Camp against surprise attacks by General Howe's army, being stationed at the extreme lower end of the encampment nearest Philadelphia, where Howe's army was in comfortable winter quarters.

At Monmouth, Muhlenberg and Von Steuben retrieved the disaster caused by General Lee's blunders. He was second in command in "Mad" Anthony Wayne's successful assault upon Stony Point, also took a prominent part in the final struggle at Yorktown, receiving words of highest praise from the Commander-in-Chief. On September 30, 1783, he was made a Major General, a truly well-merited honor.

With the coming of Peace to the young nation, Muhlenberg moved to Philadelphia with his family, where he gave away his minister's gown, and put aside his military garb and never resumed them in active service in the Church or Nation. . . . Soon however he was called into the active civil service of his state and nation. He filled positions of honor and trust as a member of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania; Vice-president of the Commonwealth, with Franklin as President; Representative of the first, third and sixth Congress and United States Senator from Pennsylvania.

His native Pennsylvania selected Muhlenberg as one of the two distinguished sons whose statue might be placed in the Capitol at Washington.

A minister of fiery determination, a warrior of unwavering courage, and a statesman of sterling integrity, his brilliant services rendered to his Church, his State and his Nation, during the formative years of establishing a stable government for the young Republic, earned for him an undying name and fame in his beloved America.

Today, when we are engaged in a world wide war that staggers human imagination in its toll of human life and material treasure beyond anything ever dreamed of, Muhlenberg's famous pulpit challenge of 1776 should be the clarion rallying cry of all AMERICA:

"Who dares"—this was the patriot's cry,

"Come out with me in Freedom's name,

For her to live, for her to die?"

And, not only the soldier, the sailor, the aviator, but the worker in all walks of life should by the millions answer "I."

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## Tribute to Chester P. Cook, Late President, Historical Society of Montgomery County

By S. CAMERON CORSON

*First Vice-President, Trappe Church, September 19, 1942*

Members of the Historical Society of  
Montgomery County, Pennsylvania:

I desire to present my estimate of the value of an old friend, Chester P. Cook, who lived in Merion, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. He was a student of the writings of others, and was very well informed in matters of history,

particularly of Montgomery County. He had a splendid collection of maps and charts and gave an excellent history of some of them to this Society.

He was a Civil Engineer and was on the same engineer corps of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, located in Atlantic City when I was a member of that same corps, under W. C. Bowles, Assistant Engineer. This work was to widen the West Jersey and Seashore R. R. from Egg Harbor City to Atlantic City. This was just before the start of the war with Spain, in 1897-1898.

Mr. Cook was the tenth president of this Society, but only served from his election on Washington's Birthday, 1942, to his death—about five months.

He, Irvin P. Knipe and Henry W. Kratz were the only presidents who died in office. Mr. Knipe served six years and Mr. Kratz eight months.

When Mr. Cook took over the leadership of this Society he expressed an earnest desire to bring it back to a position of eminence. He also sounded a word of caution about complacency because of good financial backing, and urged the Society to make plans for development and expansion, to keep it in line with similar societies in adjoining counties.

He attended many meetings and had a host of friends who will miss his smile and good fellowship.

Only a few days before the February meeting he gave me a list of some large trees he had measured in Merion and from my measurements of many large trees it was an incentive to do likewise and that list I have. When he left he said, "This is only a start, I have found it a very entertaining and instructive pastime, and of the trees you have a record of I would like to have a copy of those in my end of the county." This is all he had, the four he gave me.

Members of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, you have lost an official who was deeply interested in your welfare and from his few remarks you may be assured of his honest intention to build up this Society to equal any other.

I sincerely honor his memory as a Brother Civil Engineer of long standing—1897 to 1942.

## Chester Preston Cook

By FRANKLIN A. STICKLER

*Chairman, Trustees — Trappe Church, September 19, 1942*

"Ships that pass in the night, and speak each other in passing,  
Only a signal shown and a distant voice in the darkness,  
So on the ocean of life, we pass and speak one another,  
Only a look and a voice, then darkness again and a silence."

For a number of years one of our quiet, active, unassuming members, much interested in the present and future welfare of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, was Chester Preston Cook, of Merion, Pennsylvania.

Of a kindly, friendly disposition, he was always willing to assume and faithfully perform whatever duties were assigned him.

At our annual meeting in February of this year he was elected president of our Society. Only sixty-four years of age, in apparent perfect health, it was felt that we had secured another outstanding "pilot" to guide the Society's affairs through the troublous years ahead. His presiding at the April meeting, and his cordial cooperation with his fellow officers and the Board of Trustees and Directors and committees, confirmed the wisdom of that choice.

However, God moves in a mysterious way, and He alone knows what is in darkness; and we were all deeply shocked to learn that on July sixteenth, while life's shadows were still falling towards the western horizon, our friend and president was summoned by the Master to come to his home beyond the sunset and stars and serve in the Great Beyond.

I know that he was greatly interested in the forward looking future program of our Society, and especially so in the plans outlined for today's pilgrimage to this historic shrine, which we discussed personally a short time before his untimely death, at which time he expressed his hearty

approval of the actions already taken. Always leading an active life, I believe his wish, like my own, was voiced by the following lines:

“Let me die working,  
Still tackling plans unfinished, tasks undone!  
Clean to its end, swift may my race be run.  
No laggard steps, no faltering, no shirking!  
Let me die working!”

Truly “On the ocean of life, we pass and speak one another,  
Only a look and a voice, then darkness again and a silence.”

Let us pay a standing tribute to our departed friend at this time.



## Charles Heber Clark\*

By FREDERIC L. CLARK, ESQ.

Biographical and historical sketches must start somewhere. They must have a beginning. Custom, to some extent, indicates that they should begin with the ancestry and birth of the subject of the sketch. This one will not. For no account of the life here portrayed could be adequate, nor, in fact, could it really be portrayed, without some reference to that life's relationship to the place where, and to the people among whom, so much of it was lived.

Charles Heber Clark had a real affection for and devotion to Conshohocken and to Montgomery County. He loved the town and the county in which he lived. He loved the people of the town and the people of the county. And it is no exaggeration to say that large numbers of the people of both town and county loved him.

He was essentially friendly and neighborly. He felt a real joy in his daily contacts with the people he met on the streets, in the stores, and on the trains as he and they went about their duties and pleasures. He knew and spoke to nearly everyone in Conshohocken.

He appreciated his fellow men for what they were, not for what they had or for the positions they held. Mingled with the vigor of his personality and the positiveness of his manner was an ever-flowing and outgoing of good will, which surged around and enveloped the people he loved and associated with during the nearly half century of his residence in Montgomery county.

As I share that affection for this county, partly perhaps through inheritance, but largely by reason of having been born here and having lived here during the first thirty years of my life, it is a peculiar pleasure and a valued privilege for

\*Read before the Society November 21, 1942.

me to be allowed to present to you this brief account of his life. And of course it can be only a brief account.

Our own valley of the Schuylkill and the region round about always has appealed to the sentiments of those privileged to know it. The homesick Irishman and the New England poet alike have left in verse some account of their impressions of it.

But when Thomas Moore wrote of wandering by the Schuylkill and told us that

"And bright were its flowery banks to his eye;"

or when Whittier noted how

"Through the deep  
Hush of the woods a murmur seems to creep,  
The Schuylkill whispering in a voice of sleep,"

they wrote no more touching appreciation of this historic valley and of its people than did he who loved both the valley and its people.

In the beautiful foreword to the volume of short stories collected and published in 1914, under the title "By the Bend of the River," he describes this entrancing scene in words too long to quote here. But he refers to Connock (using that name for Conshohocken)

"Where the quiet river bends to the eastward, and below, where it turns sharply toward the south through the cleft in the long-hill range."

And he tells us that our river

"Winds in and out and around and about among the everlasting hills which are clothed by the green trees as with a rustling garment."

Then at the conclusion of the foreword he pays this tribute to his fellow men and to the scenes he loved:

"Before I start to turn this particular bend of the river I would say a word of thankfulness. I thank:

The people of Connock for all their love and kindness to me, long-continued; and

The Celestial Power which, amid the bitter tragedies of life, permits us to have the privilege of enjoying innocent mirth."

Charles Heber Clark was born in Berlin, Maryland, July 11, 1841. His father was an Episcopal clergyman who over a period of more than forty years officiated in various country churches. The family life was largely one of poverty. I have heard my father say that he doubted if their income in any year ever exceeded \$600. In later years he had a peculiar satisfaction in urging and having adopted in the Episcopal Convocation of Norristown a resolution providing that no minister's salary should be less than a certain amount, which I do not recall.

The country churches of his father included Wilkes-Barre, Williamsport and Churchtown, Pennsylvania; Berlin and Shrewsbury, Maryland; and Portsmouth, Ohio.

The family were in Churchtown in 1843, and for several years thereafter. The only water supply was a creek and two village pumps. One of the pumps was kept locked by the owner and the other usually was dry.

The minister and his young family went to Williamsport in a canal boat. In later years I went with my father to Williamsport by automobile. It was in the last years of his life, and he referred to the fact that he first went there by canal boat, and now was going back again by automobile. The trip by canal boat from Columbia or Harrisburg took about three days; in an automobile, only a few hours. If he had lived just a few years longer he would have seen another revolution in transportation through the airplane.

In 1851 my grandfather became the head of a girls' school in Washington. Here in the nation's capital lasting impressions were made on the mind of the boy.

President Fillmore was a familiar figure on the streets, as was General Winfield Scott. William H. Seward sat near the family pew in the Church of The Epiphany when, as happened sometimes, the head of the school preached in that church.

In the Senate my father saw Lewis H. Cass, Thomas H. Benton and Sam Houston, of Texas. He heard Daniel Webster deliver the oration at the laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol extension. At Arlington he saw old Mr. Custis, the grandson of Mrs. George Washington and the father-in-law

of General Robert E. Lee. He called with his mother at the White House to see President Franklin Pierce.

My grandmother knew the widow of Alexander Hamilton, then living in Washington at an advanced age. From 1841 to 1942 is a long while. It seems strange that only two generations intervene between personal acquaintance with Alexander Hamilton's widow and the present. But such is our America.

A larger school was taken, but was not successful, and once again the family had to move, and in 1858 went to Shrewsbury Church, Kent County, Maryland. The county was a region of slaveholders. My father has stated that the most offensive thing that could be said of a white man was that he was an "abolitionist." A neighbor subscribed for the New York Tribune, the postmaster found out about it and the unfortunate subscriber was notified to leave the county, which he did.

When the Washington school broke up my father was between fifteen and sixteen years of age. He had little schooling in the modern sense. He has given interesting accounts of the schools he attended in Washington and Georgetown. The Washington school was conducted by Mr. Tucker. A class of boys was seated upon a bench. Tucker, holding a book close to his face, walked down the row, switching each boy's legs when the time came to recite.

But it was the Georgetown school that was unique, and the methods of education there employed were, to say the least, distinctive. The principal was a young man, about twenty-five. The scholars were in a large room, the principal sitting at a desk upon the platform. Disorder was usual and bodily punishment constantly inflicted. Often the ceiling was covered by balls of chewed paper—we should call them spit balls—to which were attached paper figures with a string. The principal possessed a paddle of sole leather strengthened with whale bone. A faulty student detected in his fault would be called to the front and receive a beating on his open hand. At times the culprit would withdraw his hand at the downward stroke of the paddle, and the blow would fall on the principal's knee.

Once when this happened the principal became so enraged that he rose from his seat and grappled with the recalcitrant student. The youngster and the principal soon were rolling upon the floor in desperate combat. Chairs, benches and desks went down before the struggle, while the fellow students watched the battle excitedly, longing eagerly that victory should rest upon the brow of their fellow seeker after knowledge.

I do not know that this early educational experience was the source of the story of the "Battle of Cannae," described in "Elbow Room," one of the books later referred to. Perhaps, by chance, some of you have read "Elbow Room." Probably most of you have not. But in one of the stories in that book there is a somewhat detailed description of Mr. Barnes who had read the Educational Monthly. That magazine, it seems, urged that boys could be taught history to advantage by letting each boy in the class represent some historical character. The school had progressed in Roman history as far as the Punic Wars, so Mr. Barnes divided the boys into two parties, the Romans and the Carthaginians.

The Romans were ranged on one side of the room and the Carthaginians on the other. After each side had recited, one of the Romans was asked to describe the battle of Cannae. Thereupon the Romans hurled copies of "Wayland's Moral Science" at the enemy. The Carthaginians made a battering ram out of a bench and charged the Romans. The Romans then turned on the Carthaginians and the fight became general. A Carthaginian would grasp a Roman by the hair and knock him over a desk, while a Roman hit a Carthaginian on the head with "Greenleaf's Arithmetic." Hannibal got the head of Scipio Africanus under his arm and pommeled it, while Caius Grachus prodded Hamilcar with a ruler, and in the ensuing struggle the two knocked down the stove pipe. Finally, in a grand charge, the Romans drove the Carthaginians out of the room and ate their lunches. The next day Mr. Barnes announced that history in the future would be studied in the old way.

Although having an inferior education at schools and

ceasing to attend any school at fifteen or sixteen, my father became a highly educated man. He was an omnivorous reader and a rapid one. He read widely and continuously. His conversation was a delight, filled as it was with historical allusions, anecdotes from the lives of the great and the famous, and quotations from essays, poetry and biography. I think that biography was his favorite reading. He read so rapidly and understandingly that in a few evenings he seemed to absorb, and from his reading to remember, a book of several hundred pages. He had a working knowledge of Latin, and taught himself to read French with a fair understanding, and to speak it at least sufficiently to make easier his travels abroad.

His favorite books, I think, were Boswell's "Life of Dr. Johnson," and the essays of Thomas Carlyle. Benjamin Franklin's autobiography never ceased to interest him, and often he said that it seemed strange that although the great Dr. Franklin was in London at the time of Johnson's glory, there is no record of the two having met. He expressed a wonder at what would have been the result of such a meeting.

American history is full of instances of boys with small or mediocre educational opportunities becoming well informed and outstanding men. Few instances excel that of my father. An ambitious boy with a vigorous and inquiring mind can go far in self-education.

Thrown on the world at fifteen or sixteen, he came from Washington and found refuge with an uncle and immediately sought employment. It was just as hard to earn a living in 1856 or 1857, and perhaps harder, than in the present times. He declined an offer to deliver hardware from a store in a pushcart, but obtained his first position at \$2.00 a week with a church publication, as errand boy and addressing paper wrappers. He worked successively, and at times unsuccessfully, in a dry goods commission house at \$50.00 a year, and in another at \$200.00. Later a position was obtained in the freight office of the North Pennsylvania Railroad, part of the Reading system and running from Philadelphia to Bethlehem. The salary was \$20.00 and later \$45.00 a month. This was

the only position, I think, that he held with any satisfaction until he became a newspaper man.

While in the railroad freight office the Civil War broke upon the nation. My father answered the call of President Lincoln for 75,000 volunteers. He joined the National Guard or Militia, but more men volunteered than were needed and he was rejected. He tried unsuccessfully to join the navy. In 1862 he enlisted in the Blue Reserves and was on duty when the Confederate army invaded Pennsylvania, marching as far south as Hagerstown, Maryland. In 1863 the state again was invaded, and as Second Sergeant of Company E, 33rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Militia, he went to Harrisburg and thence to Carlisle. The town was shelled by Fitzhugh Lee, July 1, 1863. The regiment was marched toward Gettysburg and met numbers of unarmed Union soldiers going north. They said a great battle had been fought at Gettysburg and the Union Army was badly beaten. They were prisoners, and having been paroled, were on their way home. They were the men of the First Corps whose Commander, General Reynolds, had fallen on the first day, and undoubtedly were defeated and captured when Ewell's Corps came down from the north and before the Union Army retired through the town to Cemetery Ridge.

The men of the Militia heard the heavy cannonading at Gettysburg, but did not arrive until the battle was over. Marching on to Waynesboro, and following Lee's army on the march to the Potomac, the regiment remained there until the Confederate army had retreated into Virginia, and then returned to Philadelphia. This ended my father's military experience.

The young soldier returned for a while to the freight office in 1864. Once more he entered a dry goods store as a salesman and failed completely, and a second time as a salesman for a woolen firm. At twenty-four he again was out of employment.

He had an acquaintance in the advertising department of the Philadelphia Inquirer, and to him application was made for a position upon that paper. The application was success-

ful, and the next week employment was obtained as a reporter at \$10.00 a week.

This was the turning point of my father's life. He has said that for the first time he was engaged in work that he liked, and he began his new duties with enthusiasm. At that time reporters, while allotted particular assignments, apparently had considerable liberty to seek out and write stories of their own choosing. The new reporter wrote far more than was expected of him, and turned in copy to an amount which must have astonished the city editor.

At the end of two weeks he was directed to go to Gettysburg to report the ceremonies at the laying of the cornerstone of the monument in the cemetery. This was in July, 1865. General O. O. Howard was the orator of the day. He asked the young newspaper man to sit near him and prompt him from the manuscript. My father declined as he felt that his clothing was too shabby for such a conspicuous position. But he was active in moving about during the proceedings, noting everything that went on, and then hurried home to write the narrative. It covered the whole of the paper's front page and was favorably received. Other articles also attracted the attention of the editor.

It is impossible to overstate the encouragement of this first success. The days of failure were over, the bitterness passed, and he experienced the first consciousness of achievement. For almost the first time in his life he began to believe in himself and to have confidence in his ability.

About two months after becoming a member of the Inquirer's staff two of the editors resigned. The young reporter was asked if he thought he could perform the duties of an editor. The reply was in the affirmative, and so in that short time he became one of the editors at \$15 a week.

After several months he was asked to join the editorial staff of the Evening Bulletin. He went to the Bulletin in 1867 and remained until 1882, in 1875 becoming one of the owners. His connection with the Bulletin was the real beginning of his literary career. He wrote editorials, dramatic criticisms, and, at times, stories. The leading editor and largest owner of the



paper was Gibson Peacock, and from him my father learned much in English composition. Mr. Peacock disciplined his reporters when they described a fire as a "devouring element," or wrote that a ship was launched into "her native element." To write a news article stating that someone "put in appearance" or was an "old veteran" called forth the editorial wrath, and the split infinitive was entirely abhorrent.

Mr. Peacock was a real friend to the young editor and at his home opportunity was afforded to meet some of the notable people of the day, such as Charlotte Cushman the actress, and Sidney Lanier the poet.

While in the office of the railroad company he came to know the family of Dr. Hiram Corson of Plymouth Meeting, and through them the Lukens family of Conshohocken. In 1871 he married Clara Lukens, the daughter of Lewis A. Lukens, whose family home is now the Conshohocken Free Library. After a brief residence in Philadelphia my father and mother moved to Conshohocken.

A happy family life is the greatest heritage for any child, and I cannot imagine a happier family than was ours in Conshohocken. Great sorrow came to my father and to all of us when my mother died in 1895.

While on the *Bulletin*, and to some extent while on the *Inquirer*, my father began to write short stories or pieces of a humorous nature. He wrote these to increase his income. In 1874 some of the stories, with much new material, were collected and published under the title of "Out of the Hurly-Burly" and under the *nom de plume* of "Max Adeler." My father had been fond of a story book when a boy, and in that book one of the characters was "Max Adeler," so this name was selected for the author of "Out of the Hurly-Burly," and used for later books. The book was illustrated by Arthur B. Frost, who later became a famous illustrator. It sold very well in America but the sale in England was truly remarkable. "Out of the Hurly-Burly" was followed by "Elbow Room," heretofore referred to, and later still by "Random Shots," both collections of humorous stories. Some of these were translated into German, French and Swedish. The English publishers

have stated that they alone sold more than a million copies.

"Out of the Hurly-Burly" is a series of short sketches describing people and scenes in a small village in the 1870's. The background is New Castle, Delaware, where my father's mother's family had lived. New Castle must have been an interesting place in the middle of the last century. Many stories are told about the village and its people. I have often heard my father refer to the sheriff and the one prisoner in the jail. It seems that the jail was a portion of the sheriff's house and it was the sheriff's duty to board the prisoners. At the time I am speaking of there was only one, and each day he went fishing on the wharf along the Delaware. The prisoner, it seems, fell into the habit of returning to the jail late for supper, and the sheriff's wife, becoming exasperated, reprimanded him severely and threatened to lock him out if he did not get home on time.

"Out of the Hurly-Burly" and the books which followed it contain a humor of a type which was very popular in the days of long ago, but I think no longer so. New generations have grown up, new and different kinds of life have come to pass, and I doubt if many of the younger people of today would find much entertainment in reading "Out of the Hurly-Burly" or "Elbow Room." Yet it is surprising how many persons in fairly recent years have astonished me by showing a thorough familiarity with these stories.

When I was in England in 1919 a fine old gentleman used to quote to me passages from "Out of the Hurly-Burly;" and in South America in 1920 I met another Englishman who seemed to have grown up with the books. He told me that he kept one of them alongside his bed at his home in England, and that he had just received a letter from his wife who wrote that she was about to start on a trip and was taking "Elbow Room" with her. George Arliss, the actor, in his delightful autobiography "Up the Years From Bloomsbury" has written that in the early days of his career he gave readings from the writings of Max Adeler.

While there is a certain continuity running through the

various stories in "Out of the Hurly-Burly," the reader can start anywhere and read as far as he wishes without interrupting seriously the narrative. Two of the most striking stories are the account of the political campaign in Delaware, and the sad results of the efforts of the newspaper publisher who employed a new assistant to write obituary notices. These stories must be read to be appreciated, and I shall not read them here.

The ambitious political orator, whose eloquence was widely heralded, composed an elaborate speech to be delivered at a large meeting in Wilmington. His backers advertised him so well that he was placed upon the program of the evening as the last and most prominent speaker. The earlier speakers lopped off one by one the points so carefully prepared by the orator of the day, and told all the stories he had memorized for the occasion. When his turn came he could think of nothing to say, and in desperation shouted: "If any man shoots the American flag, pull him down upon the spot; but, as for me, give me liberty or give me death," and then fled back to New Castle.

It seems that in the seventies and eighties a common practice was for some persons to publish in the newspapers of Philadelphia very elaborate and very sentimental obituary notices. In one of the stories in "Out of the Hurly-Burly" good-natured fun is poked at some of the extreme eulogies of the departed published in some of the newspapers. Colonel Bangs, the editor of the "Morning Argus," took on a new assistant named Slimmer, from the lower counties of Delaware. A number of persons, Colonel Bangs had noted, were disposed to give expression in verse to their feelings for their deceased relatives. And it occurred to him that the popularity of the "Morning Argus" would measurably be increased if Slimmer, who claimed some poetical gifts, used his talents in this direction, and if each obituary notice sent in could be accompanied when published by a suitable verse. So Slimmer was instructed to compose such a verse when an obituary notice was sent to the office. He was instructed by Colonel Bangs to combine elevating sentiment with such practical information as he

could obtain from the notice or from the person who delivered the notice for publication. Slimmer was instructed to take a "bright view of the matter" and to "cause the sunshine of smiles, as it were, to break through the tempest of tears." But Colonel Bangs went to Wilmington one day and Slimmer was given a free hand, entering vigorously upon his duties with somewhat disastrous results. The people of the town were indignant the next morning when they read what Slimmer had produced.

These verses have had an amazing life. Only within the last few years I read in the *Atlantic Monthly* a rather serious article in which the author quoted from the obituary eulogy of Alexander McGlue, which the ambitious Slimmer had composed and published during the absence of Colonel Bangs. Do any of you by chance remember having read it?

"The death-angel smote Alexander McGlue,  
And gave him protracted repose;  
He wore a checked shirt and a Number Nine shoe,  
And he had a pink wart on his nose.  
No doubt he is happier dwelling in space  
Over there on the evergreen shore.  
His friends are informed that his funeral takes place  
Precisely at quarter-past four."

These books made my father known not only throughout America but widely known in England. But their popularity and his resulting reputation as a humorist alarmed him. He was convinced that he did not wish to be known only as a humorist, and he wrote that the reputation as a humorist was not easily got rid of. He said that to strew amusing books all over the world is not the way to hide yourself and to induce people to believe that you are a serious person.

Therefore he turned against these books, and I remember vividly that in conversations with his children he minimized the merits of the stories and rather deprecated his writing them.

But in 1900, at the age of 59, he went to Europe for the first time. The journalists and literary men of England and his publishers received him so warmly and enthusiastically

that I think he became completely reconciled to the writings of his youth, and found real satisfaction in the realization of the pleasure he had given to millions of people.

While on the *Bulletin* my father became a serious student of economics and politics. He was a strong believer in the protective tariff. When he left the *Bulletin* in 1882 he purchased a trade journal—the “*Textile Record*.” When the Manufacturer’s Club was first organized in Philadelphia he became editor of the “*Manufacturer*,” a paper published by the club. In these papers he advocated strongly the principles in which he so firmly believed, and as the representative of the Manufacturer’s Club he appeared before Committees of Congress and of the Legislature at Harrisburg. He also made speeches in many political campaigns. These activities took place over many years. They need not be enumerated here. But they gave him a reputation for serious thought and writing which he valued far more than the reputation he had gained as a humorist.

My father was a deeply religious man. He taught a Bible class in Conshohocken for more than thirty years. One of the boys in the class was J. Ellwood Lee, who asked his teacher for assistance in finding a position. A position was obtained with a maker of surgical instruments in Philadelphia. In a few years the boy started in business for himself and asked his former teacher to become associated with him. The J. Ellwood Lee Company was formed and grew and prospered, consolidating in 1905 with Johnson and Johnson of New Brunswick, New Jersey. From this kindly interest in the young man in the Bible class grew a business relationship which enabled his benefactor to retire from journalism shortly after the beginning of the new century.

A few years before his retirement he married Elizabeth Killé Clark, a cousin. It is a privilege to speak with grateful appreciation of her devotion and affection. She has entered so thoroughly into the activities of Conshohocken that few organizations exist for the promotion of the community welfare which have not received her generous support and to which she has not given her untiring efforts.

After my father's return from Europe in 1900, and after his retirement from active journalism, he devoted himself to miscellaneous writing and to the J. Ellwood Lee Company of which he was president.

He had written articles at times for the old New York Press, and later wrote editorials on the tariff and other subjects for the Philadelphia North American. This kind of writing he enjoyed thoroughly and he was well paid for it.

But the short story and particularly the humorous short story ever attracted him. Encouraged by his reception in England he turned again in his comparative leisure to this field and also wrote some novels. "The Quakeress" was published in 1905. It is a well written story and had a fair popularity, but the novel was not a form of literary creation suited to his talents. He excelled in the short story, and in this later period of his life wrote several for various magazines such as "The Saturday Evening Post" and the "Cosmopolitan" here, and the "Windsor Magazine" in England.

These and others, old and new, were collected and published in 1914 under the title of "By the Bend of the River." Some of them are most interesting. Most of them are humorous, and of these I think one of the best is "The Great Natural Healer." But in the collection is one which is not humorous. It is a deeply spiritual and beautiful account of a mystical scene on a night before Memorial day in the early years of the present century. It is called "The Rally at the Forge."

The Color Sergeant, who fought in the Civil War, went with his son on that eventful night across the river to the old Gulph Church on the Gulph Road and then on to Valley Forge. As they stood by the roadside, the father and son, out of the mists suddenly came the spectral figures of the past—Wayne's Brigade from St. David's, Lafayette's from Matson's Ford, men with the flat topped hats of the Mexican War, and hosts from the fields of South Mountain, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. Dimly in the distance of the hills at the Forge they passed in review before the shadowy presence of the great Commander, and "Lo!" as the Color Sergeant's son told of the

scene, "the mountains around and about were full of the armies of the Lord."

The "Rally at the Forge" is a story of rare beauty and of particular appeal to those of us who from childhood have lived in the shadows of that hallowed ground.

This book, "By the Bend of the River" was the last one my father wrote. He died in August 1915.

His life was a life of achievement and of victory. He overcame much and he overcame by struggle. He will be remembered not only for what he wrote and what he did, but for his generous and friendly nature which endeared him to so many.

"Living, to wing with mirth the weary hours,  
Or with romantic tales the heart to cheer;  
Dying, to leave a memory like the breath  
Of summers full of sunshine and of showers,  
A grief and gladness in the atmosphere."

# Marriages Recorded on German-Inscribed Tombstones in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

COPIED AND TRANSLATED BY ANITA L. EYSTER\*

## NEW HANOVER LUTHERAN CHURCH

- Aug. 1, 1769. Michael ALBRECHT and Elisabeth YERGER.  
Oct. 12, 1800. Tobias ALBRECHT and Catharine GILBERT.  
Dec. 15, 1805. Michael ALBRECHT, son Michael & Elisabeth,  
and Susanna KURTZ.  
Mar. 6, 1814. Andreas ALDINGER and Anna Maria  
GROSSMAN.  
Jan. 27, 1833. James BARTMAN and Maria SCHOENLY.  
Nov. 20, 1836. James BARTMAN and Judit FUCHS.  
July 4, 1841. James BARTMAN and Lidia HUFF.  
1843. Gottlieb BARTMAN and Lovina MILLER.  
Apr. 29, 1783. Adam BEITEMAN and Veronica BENDER.  
Sep. 24, 1751. Ludwig BICKEL and Eva Barbara  
SCHWEINHART.  
May 7, 1775. Jacob BICKEL and Elisabeth SCHIDTLER.  
Dec. 2, 1788. Daniel BICKEL, son Ludwig & Barbara, and  
Regina GILBERT, dau. Heinrich.  
1808. Jacob BICKEL and Maria Margaretha  
LEVENGOOD.

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\*This contribution of Mrs. Eyster's constitutes an unique source of genealogical data, nothing of the kind, so far as known, having been published before.—Ed.



- Apr. 11, 1816. Heinrich BICKEL and Rebecca DERR.
- May 21, 1820. Jacob BICKEL, son Daniel & Regina, and  
Susanna GULDI.
- May 5, 1801. Heinrich BICKEL and Maria VOGELY.
- May 5, 1839. Heinrich BICKEL, Jr., and Sarah WIAND.
- Dec. 11, 1831. Johannes BICKEL, son Johann, and Elisabeth  
JORGER.
- Mar. 18, 1769. Jacob BINDER, son Moses & Anna, and  
Susanna SCHLONECKER.
- May 5, 1777. Johannes BINDER, son Moses & Anna, and  
Maria Elis. GEIGER, dau. Paul & Eva.
- Feb. 13, 1820. Johannes BINDER, son Joh. & Elisabeth, and  
Johanna BICKEL.
- Dec. 15, 1772. Anthony BINDER and Catharina.
- Nov. 2, 1806. Georg BINDER, son Jacob & Susanna, and Su-  
sanna PFALZGRAF, dau. Henry & Maria.
- Jan. 4, 1844. William BINDER and Maria MILLER.
- Mar. 21, 1824. Moses BINDER and Susanna BINDER, dau.  
Joh. & Elis. (Geiger) Binder.
- Jan. 12, 1823. Jacob BINDER and Susanna STELZ, dau.  
Valentin & Amalia.
- Sep. 22, 1840. Jacob BINDER and Elisabeth YERGER, wd.  
of Joh. BICKEL.
- Dec. 15, 1767. Joseph BRENDLINGER and Anna Rosina  
LOBER, dau. Peter & Catharina.
- May 6, 1804. John Peter BRENDLINGER, son of Joseph,  
and Maria BURKETT.
- Oct. 4, 1791. Jacob BRENDLINGER, son of Joseph, and  
Elisabeth ROTH, dau. Philip & Maria.
- Jan. 13, 1816. Philip BRENDLINGER, son Jacob & Elisa-  
beth, and Catharine NYCE.
- Feb. 14, 1799. Jacob BRENDLINGER and Anna Maria  
KURTZ.
- Dec. 14, 1823. Jacob BRENDLINGER, son Jacob & Anna  
Maria, and Elisabeth BENDER.

- Mar. 22, 1801. Dieter BUCHER, son Georg Dieter & Maria  
Magd. and Elisabeth SCHNEIDER.
- May 29, 1806. Dieter BUCHER and Catharina CHRISTMAN.  
1774. David BURCKERT and Elisabeth REICHERT.
- Mar. 26, 1815. Johannes DECKER and Catharina FILLMAN.
- Aug. 31, 1817. Heinrich DECKER and Hannah MAURER.
- Apr. 3, 1796. Jacob DEWISHEISSEN, son Heinrich, and  
Eva JORGER.
- May 17, 1825. Johann DREHS and Catharina Fillman, wd of  
Johann DECKER.
- Mar. 3, 1825. Jacob EDELMANN, son Joh. & Magd. and  
Rebecca DREHS, dau. Jacob & Rebecca.
- Mar. 4, 1813. Joh. Georg Adam EGOLFF and Elisabeth  
HALL.
- Feb. 12, 1815. Jacob ERB, son Georg & Catharine, and  
Elisabeth MILLER.
- Dec. 2, 1777. Johannes VOGLE and Anna Maria LINSEN-  
BIGLER.
- Oct. 7, 1792. Georg FOGELE and Anna Maria FUCHS.
- June 4, 1780. Isaac FETHER and Catharina  
SCHUMACHER.
1854. Aaron C. FOX and Anna M. MILLER.
- Mar. 28, 1780. Johannes FRIEDERICH and Elisabeth  
SCHON.
- Nov. 21, 1752. Bernard GILBERT and Maria Elisabeth  
MEYER.
- Oct. 15, 1816. Jacob GILBERT, son Heinrich & Maria, and  
Sarah SMITH.
- Nov. 1811. Peter HARTENSTEIN and Hannah  
SCHNELL.
- July 24, 1825. Peter HARTENSTEIN and Catharine  
HARTMAN.
- Apr. 15, 1759. Tobias JORGER, son Peter & Barbara, and  
Catharina SINGER, dau. Casper & Marg.

- Apr. 15, 1765. Michael JORGER and Anna Margaretha ERHART, dau. Johann & Luisa.
- May 31, 1745. Andreas JORGER and Anna Catharina CONRAD.
- Apr. 13, 1798. Heinrich JORGER and Catharina GILBERT.  
1783. Andreas JORGER, son Thomas & Anna Maria, and Anna STAUFFER.  
1807. Johann JORGER, son Andreas & Anna, and Elisabeth, dau. Heinrich & Sophia LEE.  
1797. Joh. Georg JORGER and Susanna HOLBART.
- Nov. 11, 1827. Peter JORGER and Hannah ROTH. (Rhoads)
- Dec. 27, 1841. Peter JORGER and Sarah ERB.  
1740. Martin JORGER and Barbara REICHERT.
- June 26, 1774. Joh. Heinrich JORGY and Catharina
- Oct. 18, 1788. Jacob KAMMERER, son Heinrich & Anna Maria, and Anna Louisa SCHWANCK-WEILER.
- Nov. 24, 1825. Eli KEELER, son Conrad & Elisabeth, and Maria GILBERT.
- Jan. 31, 1808. Henry KEPNER, and Catharina SCHELL, dau. Abraham & Hanna.
- Sep. 19, 1856. Henry R. KEPNER and Sarah Ann GEIGER, dau. Samuel & Sarah.  
1832. William S. KEPNER and Sarah KOCH.
- Dec. 29, 1851. Abraham KNERR, son Jonathan & Maria Magd. and Rebecca SCHMIDT.
- May 24, 1801. Johannes KOCH, son Conrad & Cath. and Elisabeth HUBER, Dau. Michael & Elis.
- Jan. 25, 1849. Jonas KOCH, son Joh. & Elis. and Anna Elisabeth LANDIS.
- June 25, 1771. Joh. Michael KREPS, son Henry, and Catharina KUNTZ.
- Apr. 10, 1796. Heinrich KREPS, son Michael & Catharina, and Hannah BETZ.

- Dec. 31, 1765. Michael KURTZ, son Michael & Klorie, and  
Fredrika BINDER, dau. Moses & Anna.
- June 6, 1802. Johannes KURTZ and Hanna SCHELLKOP.
- Sep. 14, 1817. Johannes KURTZ and Barbara MERCKLEY.
- Feb. 19, 1815. Michael KURTZ and Maria BRAUER.
1739. Peter LOBER and Maria Catharina
- June 15, 1790. Martin MILLER and Anna Maria MECKLEIN,  
dau. Johannes & Catharina.
1806. Daniel MULLER, son Peter & Maria, and  
Catharine Vogle.
- Oct. 4, 1812. Michael MULLER, son Peter & Maria, and  
Maria GILBERT.
- May 15, 1808. Georg MOYER and Maria KRAUS.
- Jan. 8, 1814. Jacob RENNINGER, son Wendel & Salome,  
Fronica HUBER, dau. Georg.
- May 2, 1833. Jacob REIFSCHNEIDER and Sara  
SCHWEINHART.
- Jan. 24, 1833. Abraham REIFSCHNEIDER, son Johann &  
Margaretha, and Maria SCHNELL.
- Jan. 26, 1790. Ludwig SCHIDTLER, son Ludwig & Maria  
Barb. and Barbara HEILIG, dau. Georg  
& Barb.
- June 2, 1776. Jacob SCHMIDT, son Heinrich & Barbara, and  
Elisabeth WEIS.
- May 1, 1804. Heinrich SCHMIDT, son Jacob & Elisabeth,  
and Maria FETHER.
1858. James SCHMIDT, son Joh. & Elisabeth, and  
Catharina KNETZ, dau. Michael & Cath.
- Oct. 6, 1822. Daniel SCHMIDT, son Conrad & Anna Maria,  
and Esther HELBERT.
- Oct. 29, 1733. Melicher SCHONER and Anna Maria GEISER.
1788. Andreas SCHWENK and Maria Magdalena  
BEITEMANN, dau. Friedrich.

- Sep. 12, 1788. George F. SEEFRIED, son Michael & Catharina, and Anna Maria LOBER.
- Apr. 11, 1762. Joh. Martin SENDERFER and Hanna BINDER.
- June 8, 1801. Abraham STETTLER, son Christian & Cath. (Kurtz) and Elisabeth VOGLE.
- Aug. 18, 1778. Joh. Friedrich VOGEL, son Rudolph & Anna Maria, and Maria Magd. (Lampater) STARCK.
- Oct. 16, 1791. Adam WARTMAN and Elisabeth FEDEROLF.
- Dec. 22, 1761. Leonhardt WIESZNER and Rosina Elisabeth SCHICK.

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FALKNER SWAMP REFORMED CHURCH

- Sep. 17, 1837. Herman ACHE and Catharina SCHWEINHART.
- Apr. 21, 1805. Joseph BECHTEL and Catharina
- Oct. 30, 1787. Philipp BRAND, son Michael, and Catharina SCHEFFE.
- Apr. 1, 1821. Daniel BUCHER and Maria JUNG.
- Aug. 14, 1842. Michael CHRISTMAN and Catharina JAUS.
- Mar. 20, 1798. Friederich DALLICKER and Catharina BEITEMANN.
- Jan. 6, 1761. Bernhard DOTTERER and Barbara WARTMAN.
- Mar. 16, 1828. William EHL, son Alexander & Margaret, and Elisabeth LANG.
1774. Joseph FREYER and Barbara
- Mar. 2, 1791. Christian FREYER and Christina FILLMAN.
- Apr. 15, 1812. Jacob FREYER, son Henry & Maria, and Rahel NIES.
- Dec. 17, 1836. Jacob FREYER and Salome PALTZGRAF.

Apr. 16, 1797. Conrad GEIST, son Mathias & Elisabeth, and Maria GROFF.

1817. Heinrich GILBERT and Sarah HEYSER.

Nov. 19, 1854. Gideon GRIMLEY, son John & Elisabeth, and Hannah Matilda SAYLER.

Mar. 6, 1831. Samuel HATFIELD and Sarah LIEBENGUTH.

Dec. 13, 1889. David HATFIELD and Sarah

May 12, 1846. Andreas HOFFMAN and Lavinia GRABER.

Sep. 12, 1824. Christopher JONSON and Maria DREHS.

Aug. 22, 1802. Andreas JUNG, son Roland & Catharine, and Catharina BRENDLINGER.

Jan. 17, 1830. Jacon JUNG, son Andreas & Catharina, and Sarah HOFFMAN.

Oct. 27, 1833. Jonas JUNG, son Andreas & Catharina, and Sarah SCHMIDT.

May 30, 1830. Moses KEHL, son Anton & Barbara, and Lea LEVAN.

Jan. 15, 1826. Georg KEHL, son Anton & Barbara, and Sarah DOTTERER.

Apr. 10, 1803. Jacob KEYSER, son Heinrich & Elis. and Christina NEUMAN, dau. Carl & Elisabeth.

Dec. 30, 1841. Israel KEYSER, son Jacob & Christina, and Rahel JORGER.

Apr. 18, 1769. Michael KOLB and Anna Eva STELWAGIN.

1859. Jonas KOLB and Angelina FUCHS.

Oct. 6, 1833. Joseph LATSEHAR and Judid CHRISTMAN.

1820. Isaac LENHARD and Elisabeth LEIBY.

Aug. 31, 1806. Johannes MACK, son Georg & Ester, and Catharina HUBER.

Feb. 9, 1817. Johannes MULLER, son Peter & Maria (Hiltner), and Maria Margaretha SCHELL.

Nov. 26, 1848. Jesaias MOYER and Mary Anna MILLER.

Sep. 25, 1777. Heinrich PALSGRAF and Maria HUBER.

- Dec. 28, 1806. Heinrich PANNEBECKER, son Heinrich & Susanna, and Elisabeth RIESER.
- Dec. 8, 1833. Charles PANNEBECKER, son Heinrich & Elisabeth, and Hannah KREPS.
1838. John PUGH and Sarah SMITH.
- May 13, 1820. Jacob SCHEFFY and Salome SEBOLD.
- Mar. 7, 1779. Johannes SCHMIDT, son Andreas & Catharine, and Anna Maria ROSCH.
- Aug. 3, 1794. Heinrich SCHMIDT, son Andreas & Catharine, and Christina BUCHER.
- Nov. 12, 1837. Israel SCHMIDT and Maria BUCHER.
- Nov. 22, 1772. Johannes SCHNELL and Elisabeth DENG-  
LER, dau. Jacob & Catharina.
- Nov. 28, 1830. John SCHWEISFORT and Salome ALBRECHT.
- May 9, 1786. Christian SPECHTS and Barbara SENSEN-  
DERFER.
- May 19, 1801. Peter STELTZ, son Joh. Peter, and Catharina  
MARTIN, dau. Peter & Catharina.
- Oct. 11, 1798. Michael STRAUB and Maria NEUMAN.
1801. Wendel WIAND and Catharina DOTTERER,  
dau. Michael & Catharina.
- June 11, 1815. Markes YERGER and Mary Margaretha DOT-  
TERER, dau. Michael & Maria.
- Aug. 12, 1804. Jacob ZOLLER, son Christian & Marg. and  
Elisabeth SCHMIDT, dau. Jacob & Elis.

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LEYDICH BURYING-GROUND — FREDERICK TOWNSHIP

- Nov. 5, 1818. Joseph BITTING and Elisabeth SCHAEFFER,  
dau. Peter.
- Feb. 15, 1801. Johannes EMMERICH, son Joh. & Maria, and  
Margaretha KRAUS, dau. Daniel & Mar-  
garet.

- Mar. 5, 1825. Johannes GROB and Maria HILTEBEITEL.  
 Aug. 10, 1772. Daniel KRAUSE and Margaretha SEHLER.  
 May 9, 1784. Georg MOHR and Maria Barbara LANGBEIN.  
 Sep. 11, 1764. Ludwig REIMER, son Fried. & Elis. and Sus-  
 anna KUNTZ, dau. Georg & Eva.  
 Sep. 25, 1760. Henrich STETTLER and Anna Catharina  
 MOCK.  
 Mar. 5, 1765. Christian STETTLER and Catharine Elisabeth  
 KURTZ.  
 Apr. 5, 1796. Peter SCHWEISFORT and Maria BICKHART,  
 dau. Conrad.

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ZIEBER-SCHWENK BURYING-GROUND

FREDERICK TOWNSHIP

- Apr. 30, 1751. George SCHWENK and Fronica MARKLEY.  
 Nov. 15, 1785. Daniel SCHWENCK and Catharina  
 RAUDERBUSCH.  
 Dec. 20, 1802. Daniel SCHWENCK and Catharina SCHANTZ,  
 wd Jacob BOYER.  
 Mar. 26, 1799. Georg WALT and Maria SCHWENCK, dau.  
 Joh. & Regina.

(For other Marriages in these family Grounds,  
 consult Burial Records.)

(To be continued)



# Report of Recording Secretary

NANCY CORSON CRESSON

Our all-day meeting of the Society was held April 25, 1942, with a large group attending. Prizes were awarded two High School students for papers of historical interest. Our newly elected president, Mr. Chester P. Cook, presided.

(Deep loss was later sustained by the death of our president, followed by the passing of Miss Frances M. Fox, and of our Librarian, Miss Emily K. Preston.)

Papers of interest were read by Miss Bertha S. Harry and Mr. Walter Knerr.

Mr. Alvin B. Faust gave a talk on the old Faust Tannery.

On September 19th a trip was taken to Old Trappe Church where the Hon. Harold G. Knight spoke on Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg.

On February 22, 1943, at the annual meeting, the following officers were elected:

|                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| President .....               | Kirke Bryan, Esq.    |
| First Vice-President .....    | S. Cameron Corson    |
| Second Vice-President .....   | Charles Harper Smith |
| Third Vice-President .....    | George K. Brecht     |
| Recording Secretary .....     | Nancy C. Cresson     |
| Corresponding Secretary ..... | Ella Slingluff       |
| Financial Secretary .....     | Annie B. Molony      |
| Treasurer .....               | Lyman A. Kratz       |

## TRUSTEES

Franklin A. Stickler  
Mrs. A. Conrad Jones  
Katharine Preston  
H. H. Ganser  
Nancy P. Highley

## Report of Corresponding Secretary

ELLA SLINGLUFF

### NEW MEMBERS

Frank Fisher Vanderslice

Miss Eva G. Davis

Mrs. Priscilla C. Schroeder

Miss Berta Nichols

### HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Jessie Reed

### DEATHS

Miss Emily K. Preston

John C. Sheldon

David Allebach (Life Member)

### RESIGNATIONS

Miss Katherine Boorse

Mrs. Linda W. Corson

Miss M. Virginia Kurtz

Miss Bertha S. Harry

Byran C. Hickman

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## Librarian's Report

BERTHA S. HARRY

### ACQUISITIONS

#### Books and Pamphlets:

The Book of Days.

A Miscellany of Popular Antiquities—2 Vols.

A Short History of the English People.

Webster's Dictionary (with stand).

The Beginning of the Petroleum Industry.

Travels in New France.

Democracy in America, by Alexis de Toqueville.

Forever the Farm, by Marion Nicholl Rawson.

The Good Old Days, by David L. Cohn.

Only Yesterday, by Frederick Lewis Allen.

History of Salem, by Joseph S. Sickler.

The Counter-Revolution in Pennsylvania, 1776-1790, by Robert L. Brunkhouse.

Journals of Congress—4 Vols.

Penna. Historical Commission has sent 24 pamphlets, including—

Old Economy; Daniel Boone Homestead; The Flag-ship, Niagara; Cornwall Furnace; Ephrata Cloister; Fort Augusta; Governor Printz Park; Pennsbury Manor; Colonization of New Sweden; Dedication of Wayside Shelter at Boone Homestead; Arbor Day; How Penna. is Governed; Pennsylvania Day; Some Pennsylvania Leaders; Penna. History in Outline; What to Read about Pennsylvania; Penna. Bibliography, No. 2; List of State Publications, No. 2; Penna.—Keystone of Democracy; 100 years of Free Public Schools in Penna.; 1834-1934, Charter of King Charles II of England and Penn's Frame of Government of Pennsylvania.

Buhl Foundation Report, 1942.

Hannah A. Price; Memoir of—

America's First Automobile, by J. Frank Duryea.

Data Relative to the Development of America's First Gasoline Automobile, by J. Frank Duryea.

St. John's P. E. Church, Norristown; 130th Programme of—, including historical data.

A Vindication of Casper Schwenkfeld.

### Manuscript Material:

Deeds—a fine collection, the gift of Rev. Carolus P. Harry from the John Boyer collection. Some contain genealogical notes. The dates are from 1711-1862. The choicest item is a Patent to John Markley for a new and useful improvement in the mode of grinding bark to be used in tanning leather in 1794. This bears the signatures of George Washington, Edward Randolph, and Wm. Bradford, Attorney General of U. S.

Index to Deeds Recorded at Philadelphia for Lands in Montgomery County—1682 to 1743—Compiled and presented by Charles R. Barker.

The First Air Voyage in America—Blanchard. Presented by the Penn Mutual Life Ins. Co.

Map—Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County. Historical Map, showing old homes, mills, schools, parks, play grounds, public improvements. Gift of Douglas Macfarlane, M.D.

*The Historical Society of Montgomery County* has for its object the preservation of the civil, political and religious history of the county, as well as the promotion of the study of history. The building up of a library for historical research has been materially aided in the past by donations of family, church and graveyard records; letters, diaries and other manuscript material. Valuable files of newspapers have also been contributed. This public-spirited support has been highly appreciated and is earnestly desired for the future.

Membership in the Society is open to all interested persons, whether residents of the county or not, and all such persons are invited to have their names proposed at any meeting. The annual dues are \$2.00; life membership, \$50.00. Every member is entitled to a copy of each issue of *The Bulletin* free.

Historical Hall, 18 East Penn Street, Norristown, with its library and museum, is open for visitors each week day from 10 to 12 A.M. and 1 to 4 P.M., except Saturday afternoon. The material in the library may be freely consulted during these hours, but no book may be taken from the building.

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### *To Our Friends*

Our Society needs funds for the furthering of its work, its expansion, its growth and development. This can very nicely be done through bequests from members and friends in the disposition of their estates. The Society needs more funds in investments placed at interest; the income arising therefrom would give the Society an annual return to meet its needs. Following is a form that could be used in the making of wills:

I HEREBY GIVE AND BEQUEATH TO THE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA, THE SUM OF .....  
DOLLARS (\$ ..... )